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THE NEWSPAPER FOR SITTINGBOURNE, ISLE OF SHEPPEY, FAVERSHAM & DISTRICT



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April 2, 2008



LORRY PARK PLAN TO CLEAN UP MESS

WHAT'S ON & WATCH

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ISSN 1753-123-3



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Picture PHIL HOUGHTON



DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION

Plans are being discussed which could see a lorry park created at Brenley Corner in an effort to alleviate problems by truck drivers parking overnight in the lay-bys. Do you think it is a good idea? Let us know your views - email us at yourswale@kosmedia.co.uk.

■ BY GARETH ARNOLD

VILLAGERS waking up to sacks of urine and human excrement left by lorry drivers who park overnight in lay-bys on the A2 have said enough is enough.

Complaints from residents in Boughton and villages around Faversham and Canterbury have prompted Swale council leader Andrew Bowles to come up with a radical solution to the problem.

He said: "The drivers are parking in these lay-bys all night where there are no facilities, so in the morning residents find some really unpleasant things in front of their gardens, sometimes on the wrong side of the wall."

Mr Bowles has suggested a lorry park for the area around Brenley Corner - the roundabout which signals the start of the M2 and a major junction for traffic heading to Faversham or Canterbury - with proper facilities, where drivers can park up without irritating householders.

He envisages a large parking area that would service lorries by night and commuters by day, solving another problem plaguing villagers around the A2.

Mr Bowles said: "The other problem is commuters parking in residential streets, which is a problem everywhere. For a long time it was a big issue in Sittingbourne and Faversham where people would park in residential streets all day to get the train."

"But with the increase in car sharing - which of course is something we should encourage - it's affecting rural areas too. People commuting to London or Ebbsfleet or wherever else they may be going are parking in the villages then all getting in one car to save petrol."

"All the other cars are left in the villages all day,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



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YOUR MONEY - YOUR LOSS!

CRACKDOWN ON THE BENEFIT CHEATS

Huge scale of benefits fraudsters

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

BENEFIT cheats drained more than £295,000 of taxpayers' money from council coffers last year.

The shocking statistic comes a week after Yourswale launched a campaign to stop fraudsters taking money from your pockets which could go to the community.

We have teamed up with Swale council to expose the dishonest who plague society in a crackdown called Your Money - Your Loss!

As part of the drive we are asking our readers to help root out the benefit cheats who claim money they do not deserve.

Figures released by Swale council show the cash was swindled by 46 fraudsters, who submitted false claims during the 2007/08 financial year.

A dozen were prosecuted, receiving a variety of community punishment orders.

Eighteen offenders accepted administrative penalties - a fine amounting to 30 per cent of the overpaid benefits they received - and the remaining 16 were handed cautions.

Their details will be held on a central government database and may be cited if they commit any similar offences in the next five years.

The £295,000 conned out of your welfare system came in housing benefit, council tax benefit, income support and job seekers allowance.

Swale council's benefits manager Nick Saunders said: "We hope Yourswale's campaign is successful as it's all about making benefit fraud public and getting people to do the right thing - giving information about people who they believe are committing an offence.

"We will then carry out a detailed investigation, using a number of avenues to obtain background information, and if we secure sufficient evidence, bring the offender to court.

"As well as this punitive action we will actively seek to recover the sums that have been overpaid.

"Initially we will seek to negotiate repayment with the fraudster. If they fail to make arrangements with us we will use county court judgements, which may impact on their ability to obtain future credit arrangements.

"We will back this up with enforcement by bailiffs and the county sheriff."

Mr Saunders said it was hard to put an exact figure on the drain of our cash as it is not known how many people are getting away with false claims, but his team was dedicated to weeding out the fraudsters.

If you know a benefit cheat call Swale council's fraud hotline number on 01795 417714 or use the Do It Online service at www.swale.gov.uk.

'This is a problem we need to solve'

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

which is irritating for local residents. "Of course we could put double yellow lines down all the village streets, but that would probably disadvantage the villagers as much as the commuters."

Mr Bowles has discussed the plan with Kent County Council member for transport Keith Ferrin, who has asked council highways officers to do an initial feasibility study.

Mr Bowles would like to see a public meeting bringing together Swale and Canterbury councils, as well as KCC, police and local residents, by early June.

He said: "This is not going to happen overnight and I'm not saying it's definitely the solution. What I am saying is there is a problem affecting local residents and we need to start thinking imaginatively about a solution."

yourswale NEWS IN BRIEF

Church cash appeal

SUPPORTERS of St Michael and All Angels in Throwley are being asked to stump up for the restoration of the ancient church.

Spokesman Ray Dennis, who runs the village website, said the fundraising was aimed at people with or without religious beliefs, who valued churches for their history and architecture and as the last remaining focal point for the community.

Throwley has just 130 households and it is hoped to get as many as possible to pay £40 a year to the fund.

Judo club challenge

THE Faversham Judo Club is looking for more members to learn the popular Japanese martial art.

The club caters for all abilities from novices to elite competitors.

Members can progress through the grade levels and compete at both local and national events.

For more information visit www.favershamjudo.org.

Seen a stray dog?

STRAY dogs are to be dealt with by the council under new powers.

The Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act 2005 takes responsibility for the abandoned animals away from the police.

Tim Oxley, animal control officer for Swale council, asks anyone who has seen a stray to call 01795 417850.

New Year, New Campus, New Courses at Canterbury College

Canterbury College's new courses all start this month so call the course contact or Student Information on 01227 811 188 and book your place now. Alternatively visit our website www.cant-col.ac.uk

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Landlords' fear of last chance saloon

MP protests over tax hikes levied on beer

BY RACHEL McATHY

THE rocketing cost of a pint of beer has prompted pub landlords in Faversham to call on their MP for help amid fears the recent Budget price hike could force them out of business.

And with poor weather and the smoking ban also hitting the bottom line, it is feared many pubs face troubled times ahead.

Faversham MP Hugh Robertson says he has received a number of letters from publicans expressing their concerns and is backing their fight for survival while opposing the Government's decision.

Landlord of the White Lion in Selling, Gary Payne said: "Along with the smoking ban, the increase in beer duty will definitely have an impact on local pubs."



LAST ORDERS: Hugh Robertson MP says the Chancellor should have increased tax on alcopops and strong lager

"It will be gradual and it is an ongoing issue. It will be a few months before we see the effects but it is certainly going to be a contributing factor to a lot of pubs who will have to sell up."

Francis Williamson, manager of the Anchor Inn in Abbey Street, said: "This time of year is hard due to bad weather, so we have not felt the force of the increase on its own."

"However, if it does keep rising it will take its toll. At the moment, no-one is coming in, or if they are, they looking at the price and walking out."

It has been bad timing too for local brewery Shepherd Neame, which has just announced a 2.3 per cent downturn in profits.

The company describes the current situation as "extremely challenging" and says it sees no immediate solution easing its woes over the coming months.



Blame is directed at both the smoking ban and last year's miserable summer which combined to put people off visiting their local.

Chief executive Jonathan Neame said: "We believe the current difficult trading conditions will persist throughout 2008."

National figures indicate that 27 pubs are closing across the country each day.

Motivated by local complaints and the objections of Shepherd Neame, Mr Robertson wrote a letter to the Chancellor before the Budget was announced.

Mr Robertson said: "I am desperately disappointed that he has ignored the representations made by me and other MPs with breweries in their constituencies."

He suggested the increases should have targeted binge drinkers and the duty on alcopops and high strength lagers should have been raised.

Jobs are lost as fruit firm shuts

AT LEAST 100 jobs have been lost after Faversham fruit packaging firm Fruit First ceased trading last month.

The state-of-the-art facility has closed less than a year after it first opened.

Marketing and distribution company Worldwide Fruit, a shareholder in the business, announced the closure of the facility on Friday, March 14.

Chief executive Robert Balicki said the closure was due to "cost overruns" and "all sorts of problems with the machinery".

In a statement Worldwide Fruit said: "Fruit First regrets it is ceasing to trade. As the largest creditor, Worldwide Fruit had worked closely with the other shareholders in the business and potential outside investors to try to find a way forward."

"Sadly we found the expectations of the other parties to be far in advance of what we believed to be realistic. Our proposals that would have saved the business were rejected, leaving us with no option but to serve a winding up petition upon Fruit First."

Worldwide Fruit was one of the shareholders which put about £7m into the firm.

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Cracking down on aggressive behaviour on the touchline

Police officers on a root and branch hunt for tree thieves

POLICE are baffled by a mysterious tree heist in which more than 250 saplings were stolen from a tree farm on the outskirts of Faversham.

They are calling for witnesses who may have seen the bizarre crime, which occurred between 3pm on Monday, March 24 and 7.30am the following morning.

A police spokesman said: "I'm afraid we have no idea why someone has stolen the trees but clearly if anyone is offered these type of trees, we would urge them to contact us."

While Special Branch are unlikely to be called in, police are keen for people to leaf through their memory banks in search of possible clues to root out the thieves.

The trees were beech saplings and each between two and three feet high. A vehicle was used to transport the trees from Gaskains Ltd at Norham Farm in Selling.

Police ask anyone who has seen a suspicious vehicle or with information which could help the investigation, to contact PC Duncan on 01795 419182 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Olympic hopeful's legal backing for gold medal bid

SAILING through to the Olympics could become a reality for a Faversham schoolboy, after he received sponsorship from legal firm, Vertex Law.

Queen Elizabeth Grammar School student Jack Kilburn, 17, has been sailing for most of his life and hopes to compete in the 2012 Olympics.

Now Kings Hill firm Vertex Law has agreed to sponsor Mr Kilburn and has already contributed towards his competition expenses.

The teenager, who lives in Whitstable, was initially shown the ropes by his father and has now set his sights on international glory.

He said: "Sailing is something I have done since I can remember and it's a bit of a family affair for us as my two younger brothers are also involved - although my mother isn't too keen on getting wet."

"I am hopeful that I can continue my progression to date and end up

eventually representing Great Britain at an Olympic Games - which would be an amazing experience."

As a member of the Whitstable Yacht Club and the international association, Laser Class, Mr Kilburn is preparing for the imminent National Youth Trials where he hopes to achieve a finish in the top five.

He then aims to progress through to the national squads and on to Olympic standard.

Mr Kilburn recently returned from a trip to Florida where he took part in a training camp with the British Paralympics team.

He said: "I would love to make sailing my career and am focusing on going as far as I possibly can."

"Eventually I would love to take part in the America's Cup as a tactician as to me that is the ultimate challenge on the water."

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yourswale

NEWS IN BRIEF

Two-year driving ban following crash denial

PETER McVicar, 20, tried to claim he wasn't driving a Fiat Punto which smashed into a roundabout on Rheims Way last month – but police found the keys on him as he tried to walk away.

He was breath tested at the local police station and found to be three times over the drink drive limit.

McVicar, of Castle Road, Whitstable, admitted drink driving and was given a 12-month community order, 100 hours unpaid work and a two-year driving ban. He was ordered to pay £60 costs.

Cricket stars join in for anniversary lunch

TOP cricket players Henry Olonga and Matt Walker were the star turns at the tenth anniversary lunch at the Kent Spitfires Study Centre on Friday.

The centre is a charity based at the St Lawrence Ground – home of Kent County Cricket Club – which works with schools to improve their pupils' self-esteem, motivation and basic skills.

Zimbabwe star Henry Olonga is in exile in England after making a stand against Robert Mugabe's regime, while Matt Walker has been a Kent regular for the last 13 years.

Epilepsy society to hold awareness event

AN awareness day focusing on the diagnosis and treatment of epilepsy is being held at Canterbury Christ Church University next week.

The free event – backed by the National Society of Epilepsy – is aimed at carers and professionals involved in regular care of people with epilepsy living in the East Kent area.

The day will start at 9.30am on Wednesday, April 9, and will be held at the Powell lecture theatre. Contact Trevor Hutton on 01273 441 401, or email trevor@trevorhutton.fsnet.co.uk.

Jumbled fund-raiser

TENANTS at a supported living scheme near Canterbury are holding a jumble sale to raise money for residents.

Proceeds from the sale, organised by older persons' scheme officer Mathew Sillett at Paffard Court in Sturry, will be used to pay for outings, meals and other events to promote independent living.

Bric-a-brac, homemade cakes and jam will all be on sale at the event on Saturday, May 3, at Paffard Court from 10am.

Keepers go ape for love of baby Tiya

■ BY GARETH ARNOLD

UNLIKE many seven-week-old babies, little Tiya is generally quiet and well behaved – just don't put her on her back to change her nappy.

As the latest addition to Howlett's 43-strong gorilla house, Tiya is being hand-reared by keepers Donna Honey and Ingrid Nasby after being rejected by her mother Tamki.

While she is so small, Tiya requires practically around the clock care, with the two dedicated keepers working three to four day shifts to look after her.

Miss Honey said: "She is very similar to a human baby. She has quickly worked out what she can get away with and how to get attention. There are some differences though. You would never lay a gorilla baby on its back to change its nappy as you would a human baby.

"In the wild they are used to gripping on to

their mother and if they have nothing to grip onto they get upset. And being on their back means to them they have been abandoned, and they have to cry for help.

"When we're with her we try to act like gorillas as much as possible. We make gorilla vocalisations – reassuring grunts, and coughs to discipline her instead of saying no – and wherever possible we try to walk around on all fours.

Socialising

"We don't want her to get confused as to what she is. Socialisation with other gorillas obviously helps a great deal, but we try to help as much as we can.

"It gets embarrassing sometimes when I'm out and make gorilla noises at people because I think I'm still at work."

Keepers even sleep with Tiya – named after

the African village in Gabon – who spends the night in a plastic box lined with blankets.

During the day she stays in the gorilla house with two older cousins, Kouki and Oudiki, both aged about two, although she is too small to play with them yet.

Tiya was born at Port Lympne Wild Animal Park and will be raised at its sister park – Bekebourne's Howletts. But it is hoped she will one day return to her natural home in Gabon.

Keepers intend to reintroduce her, together with Kouki and Oudiki, to a protected park encompassing thousands of acres of central Africa when all three are old enough and ready to face the wild.

Howlett's unique reintroduction programme is vital to the survival of Western Lowland Gorillas like Tiya. With fewer than 10,000 animals left in the wild the species will be extinct by 2020 if their numbers continue to decline at the present rate.



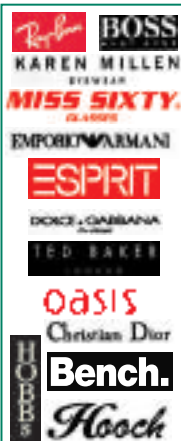
WATCH TRIO PLAY

SEVEN-WEEK-OLD Tiya spends most of the day in the gorilla house at Howlett's zoo with cousins Kouki and Oudiki.

In this video clip, we talk to keeper Donna Honey about the challenge of raising a baby gorilla. Tiya was rejected by her mother Tamki, herself rejected by her mother Killa-Killa, and is being looked after by two keepers who take it in turns to care for her.



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OPENING NIGHT: Director Russell Gomm at the recent Canterbury premier of his film Dark Roads

Director takes Dark Roads on the way to international festival

A BROODING thriller shot in Herne Bay is destined for screenings at international film festivals following its premier last month at the Odeon in Canterbury.

Dark Roads is a suspenseful revenge thriller by Herne Bay director Russell Gomm and his team, which features a sinister driver cruising into town in search of vengeance.

Describing his film, Mr Gomm said: "A solitary mysterious car drifts into town, slowly enough to take in the atmosphere, slowly enough to meet its purpose."

"As the car drives, people stop to look. It is as if the car is looking for something, or someone. The car and its driver have returned to put things right. Their journey will take them to the edge of humanity, all roads lead to revenge."

The film is shot in and around Herne Bay, and features a number of local landmarks.

Producer Tiffany Sonnex said: "Due to local connections in Herne Bay and knowledge of locations, we felt this would be the ideal place to shoot the film."

"Landmarks such as Reculver Towers and the bandstand were used to make this film visually interesting."

"We have also drafted in local actor Nick

■ BY GARETH ARNOLD

Sonnex, who plays the lead role, and actress Emily Biddle who is hoping to use this as a stepping stone to drama school."

As well as local talent, the film also features professional actors Laurence Johnson, Scott Livingstone who featured in Trainspotting, and Anita Allard.

The production received a large amount of support from local businesses, not least Broad Oak BMW, who provided a brand new BMW 330 for the film.

It was also sponsored by local businesses Knowles and Godden as well as Harbour Beers and Minerals, and almost all the crew hail from the Canterbury district.

The team's most recent production, Presence, won best actress for leading lady Vickie Hobbs, and was nominated for Best Cinematography and Best Editing at the 2 Days Later Short Horror Film Festival in 2007.

The film premiered at a private screening at the Odeon Cinema in Canterbury on March 18, and the team now intend to enter Dark Roads in national and international film festivals later this year such as Edinburgh Film Festival and Raindance.

Get on the trail of film's preview

THE trailer for Dark Roads can be seen now on our free broadband TV channel www.yourkenttv.co.uk.

The film is based on an idea conceived a few years ago by director Russell Gomm, but it was only recently the team managed to get all the necessary elements together to shoot the picture.

Producer Tiffany Sonnex said: "Russell has finally been able to bring his vision to fruition. We've made this filmic venture the best Aurora Pictures production yet."

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yourswale

NEWS IN BRIEF

Now you can choose where you're treated

PATIENTS will soon be able to go to any hospital in England for treatment after being referred by their GP.

From this week patients in the Eastern and Coastal Kent area will be able to choose the hospital where they will receive treatment.

Patients will still be able to go to their local hospital as before, in addition to choosing from any hospital where their care is funded by the NHS. This includes many private hospitals.

Kallie Heyburn, choice co-ordinator for the Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT said: "This is great news for patients in the Eastern and Coastal Kent area."

"When they are referred to hospital, it can be a worrying time for all sorts of reasons."

"Being able to address some of their personal concerns or circumstances by giving them choice can only be beneficial."

"Of course many patients will still want their GP to choose for them and that won't change. GPs will be able to access all the information available to do that."

Computer nabs crook who pinched vehicle

THIEF Clayton Bennett realised he would need to steal a number plate to put on the Rover 218 he stole from Whitstable.

But Bennett, 34, of Dodds Lane, Dover, reckoned without the national police computer because when police saw him driving erratically in Thornden Wood Road, Greenhill, on October 23 they checked the plate and arrested him.

He admitted stealing the car, and then the number plate, and driving with no insurance.

Clayton was given a 12-month community order to include drug testing, ordered to pay £250 costs and £146.60 compensation. He was also given six penalty points.

Teacher and wife bailed in prostitution case

A FORMER teacher and his wife have appeared in court to answer charges of controlling prostitution.

PE teacher and Canterbury hockey player Tim Blake Bowell, 46, and his wife Emma, 35, both of Querns Road, Canterbury, appeared at the city's magistrates' court on March 26. Speaking only to confirm their names, the couple have been bailed until May 21, when they are expected to be committed to Canterbury Crown Court for trial.

The couple were arrested in January following an investigation into the sex trade, which saw a series of raids across East Kent.

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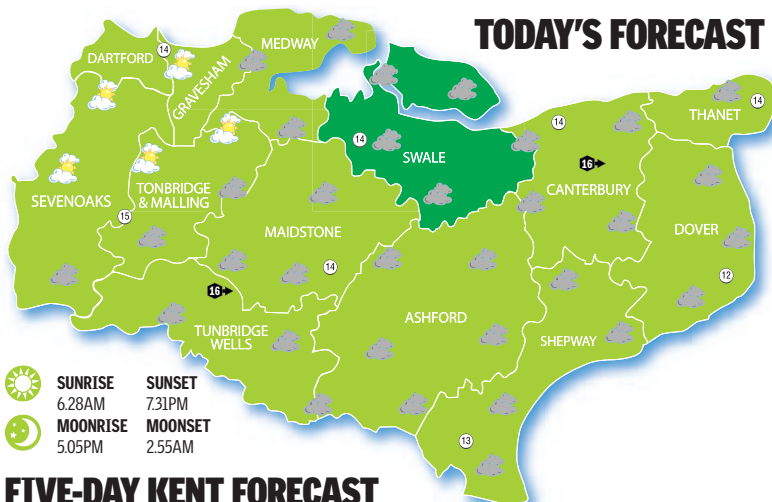


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MOONRISE 5.05PM
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	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon		Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	15°C	15°C	14°C	14°C	14°C	Gravesend	14°C	14°C	14°C	14°C	11°C
Canterbury	14°C	13°C	12°C	11°C	10°C	Maidstone	14°C	14°C	14°C	13°C	11°C
Chatham	13°C	13°C	12°C	12°C	11°C	Ramsgate	14°C	13°C	12°C	11°C	10°C
Dartford	14°C	14°C	14°C	14°C	11°C	Rochester	13°C	13°C	12°C	12°C	11°C
Dover	11°C	12°C	10°C	9°C	9°C	Sevenoaks	12°C	13°C	13°C	12°C	10°C
Faversham	13°C	13°C	12°C	12°C	11°C	Sittingbourne	13°C	13°C	12°C	12°C	11°C
Folkestone	11°C	12°C	10°C	9°C	9°C	Tonbridge	14°C	14°C	14°C	13°C	12°C
Gillingham	13°C	13°C	12°C	12°C	11°C	Tun Wells	14°C	14°C	14°C	13°C	12°C



WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	11:42am	5.4m
	Sunday	12:29pm	5.8m
Dover	Saturday	10:00am	5.8m
	Sunday	10:38am	6.2m
Dungeness	Saturday	10:03am	6.5m
	Sunday	10:46am	7.1m
Ramsgate	Saturday	10:30am	4.4m
	Sunday	11:08am	4.7m
Sheerness	Saturday	11:31am	5.2m
	Sunday	12:18pm	5.5m
Whitstable	Saturday	11:37am	4.9m
	Sunday	12:24pm	5.1m



AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	11°C	Madrid	14°C
Athens	17°C	New York	6°C
Barcelona	18°C	Paris	10°C
Beijing	15°C	Rome	17°C
Bombay	30°C	Sydney	24°C
Cape Town	29°C	Tenerife	21°C
Cardiff	11°C	Tokyo	6°C
Gibraltar	18°C	Vancouver	7°C
Hong Kong	21°C	Warsaw	14°C
Las Palmas	21°C	Wellington	17°C

Deep-clean leaves streets sparkling

NINE roads across Swale will be swept and scrubbed in the coming weeks as part of the council's year-long deep-clean programme.

Roads in Sittingbourne, Faversham and on the Isle of Sheppey will be cleansed by Swale council's clean and green team using a high-powered mechanical sweeper.

Cleansing services manager Alan Turner said: "We would like to thank the residents for moving their vehicles as it really helped us to make Swale's streets cleaner."

The deep cleans take place every Wednesday morning. Belmont Road in Halfway, Sheppey, will be scrubbed this morning.

The night before a deep clean a leaflet will be delivered to homes in the road and posted on cars asking residents to move their cars and not to park in the road between 9am and 11.30am.

Residents can see if their road will get the deep clean treatment by visiting www.swale.gov.uk

Roads that will specially cleaned in the coming weeks are:

Larkfield Road in Faversham, on April 9; Coldharbour Lane in Kemsley, Sittingbourne, on April 16; High Street in Minster, Sheppey, on April 23; Whitstable Road in Faversham, on April 30; Chalkwell Road in Sittingbourne, on May 7; Alexandra Road in Sheerness, Sheppey, on May 14; Westgate Road, in Faversham, on May 21; and Glenbrook Grove in Sittingbourne, on May 28.

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QUESTION & ANSWER

ROB SMITH



Q What is your professional background?

A I started out in radio first – I'd got the taste for it at Warwick University – and after leaving, while working for a small company in Essex calibrating hydrometers and viscometers (I really needed some cash...), I found out one of the girls in the lab was best friends with the news editor at Essex FM.

I then made sure I was at a party they were going to and kept plying him with lager until he agreed to give me a week's work experience. That was probably my best ever investment.

After being a trainee radio reporter at Essex for a year, and six months at The New Leicester Sound, I landed a job with BBC Radio Kent, reading news bulletins and reporting.

After seven good years there, which included presenting the drive-time programme, I moved over to TV.

Q What does your job entail?

A It depends which hat I'm wearing at the time. I am a reporter and presenter for BBC South East Today, the BBC's regional television news programme for Kent.

I also work as a video journalist – which means I film and edit my own pieces. There have been days when I have filmed and edited a story, and then presented the news programme as well!

The great thing about it is that I have almost complete editorial control over my stories.

Q What are your favourite aspects in terms of working in the South East?

A I love working where I live. I've been in Kent for over 12 years and have no desire to leave. I play hockey for Gillingham Anchorians and am captaining the 3rd XI this year. I keep my boat on the Medway – yacht rather than motorboat – and love getting out on the river during the week when sometimes you can be the only person out there. It is fantastically relaxing and invigorating when you have a good day. And having been around here for a while, I've gotten to know a lot of people – and people quite often recognise me, which is very nice.

Q How good is the area news-wise when compared to other parts of the country?

A We have everything here within such a compact area – right next to London, right next to the Continent – lots of farmland in the Garden of England, a huge coastline, ancient castles, and rural communities alongside built up areas like Medway. The only thing we're lacking is a Premiership football team. Once the Gills are in the top flight, I don't think you could find a better news patch anywhere.

Q What qualifications/skills are needed to get into your job?

A I have a degree in history and a postgraduate diploma in broadcast journalism – and neither are necessary to get a job as reporter or presenter in TV. The most important thing is, can you tell a story? Can you communicate

with people? It doesn't matter how academically gifted you are, if you can't get the gist of a complex issue down into a comprehensible news item and tell that story in less than two minutes, then you can't do the job.

Q Is your job rewarding?

A Immensely. There are occasions when you know that by highlighting an issue on TV, it can really make a difference to people's lives.

Reports on South East Today led to a government review into hospital cleanliness – that is something that makes a real difference to thousands of people.

Q What's been the highlight in your career?

A Presenting the main programme on South East Today fulfils an ambition in its own right. As a youngster in the 70s I used to watch Nationwide and always wanted to be a newsreader on the telly. I also wanted to be the person to say "This is the Ten O'clock News from the BBC..." – and I've done that as well.

Q What have you got planned for the future?

A This summer I am hoping to sail right around the British Isles and raise money for Leukaemia Research. The plan is to get round in about three weeks and stop off in Newcastle, Aberdeen, Belfast and Plymouth on the way.

Q & A

BBC South East Today presenter Rob Smith took the time to talk to **Simon Robinson** about his high-profile job, what makes working in Kent such a pleasure and what he likes to do in his precious spare time

New Year, New Campus, New Courses at Canterbury College

Canterbury College's new courses all start this month so call the course contact or Student Information on 01227 811 188 and book your place now. Alternatively visit our website www.cant-col.ac.uk

Canterbury College has developed a wide range of new courses all starting this January. The courses range from Plumbing to Childcare and Sport to Animal Care and from introductory level upwards. So no matter what you're doing now, whether you missed the course you wanted in September, are unhappy with your current course or just fancy a change contact Canterbury College and you can join the course you want now.

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'I really enjoyed my course. I learnt a lot, made some great friends.'
Maximilian Lock, BTEC National Certificate for IT Practitioners



vibrant student community and the Students' Union is nationally recognised for the range of trips, tours and events they organise all at reduced prices for College students. As a student at Canterbury College you'll also benefit from our brand new £50 million city centre campus with sports hall and gym, restaurants, food hall, hair and beauty salons, florist shop, travel agent and theatre. And all of this is just a 2 minute walk from Canterbury City Centre with its mix of top high street shops, bars, clubs and restaurants.

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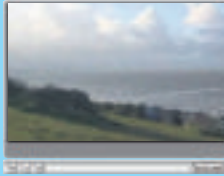
Log on and listen to Medway-based band, Epico, play the DefZone at the Red Lion in Northfleet



Thousands of people lined the streets of Maidstone to pay tribute to troops back from Afghanistan



We chat to double gold medal-winning runner Dame Kelly Holmes on board a ferry for Sports Relief



Stunning skies and sea shots have been captured on video off the Tankerton Slopes. Click on and enjoy...



Howletts keeper Donna Honey talks about raising a baby gorilla with bottle feeding and even nappy changing

EDITOR'S CHOICE

You can view all these videos and others from around the county with the click of a mouse at...

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Superheroes wanted for Invicta FM Fun Run

Don your tights, cape and mask to help raise money for charity

THE very first Invicta FM Superheroes Fun Run and Walk will take place around the grounds of The Hop Farm, near Paddock Wood, on Sunday, April 20.

Everyone taking part will be expected to come dressed as a superhero such as Superman, Spiderman, Wonder Woman, Catwoman, Batman or Robin.

You are free to make your own costume or hire one and there will be prizes for the best costumes.

The run, which covers three miles, will begin at 11am and has been organised to help raise funds for Invicta FM's two charities, Help A Kent Child and The Myasthenia Gravis Association.

Help A Kent Child is Invicta FM's own charity which aims to give the same opportunities to Kent children and young people who experience poverty and disadvantage or who are experiencing abuse, neglect, homelessness, violence and crime as well as those who have an illness or disability.

The Myasthenia Gravis Association is a charity with a network of local branches whose aims are to provide care and education for people with MG, to support research to improve diagnosis and treatment and to raise public and medical awareness of the neglected disorder.

MG is a rare disease that can strike at any age. Its hallmark is fluctuating muscle weakness which is often severe and sometimes



fatal. It is often known as the rag doll illness.

The event will be officially started by an Invicta FM presenter and anyone can take part (youngsters under 12 must be accompanied by an adult), so why not get a team together of your friends, family and colleagues?

Plenty of time will be allowed, so if you are not able to run all the way then you can complete the event in your own time. Everyone who completes the event will be presented with a unique medal to wear to show off to their sponsors.

To take part, just complete the entry form and send it in as soon as possible along with your entry fee of £10 per person (children £5).

In return, we will send you full info about the day including directions, times and how to come prepared to save the world!

Most importantly we will also send you some sponsor forms to start raising those vital funds straight away.

You can also enter on line at invictafm.com by completing the form and sending your entry fee.

If you wish to raise your sponsorship online then go to www.justgiving.com to set up your own personalised page which you can then email to colleagues, family and friends.

invictafm FUN RUN ENTRY FORM

If you are part of a team please get each team member to fill in their own entry form and fill in the team name and captain below.

Please print in block capitals (photo copy if required)

Full name.....

Address

..... Postcode

Phone number.....

Email.....

Age (if under 18)

Parents authority (12 - 17 years) (under 12s must be accompanied by an adult)

I enclose my entry fee of £..... (adults £10, under 12s £5)

Team name.....

Team captain.....

I pledge to raise as much sponsor money as possible by taking part in this event. The highest fundraisers will win a special tour of the Invicta FM studios!

I confirm that I am physically fit enough to participate in this event ☐ (please tick)

Signature..... Date

The information you provide is protected under the Data Protection Act and will only be used for the purpose it was given.

Have you any special reason for taking part?

Please send completed form to:

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NASONS

We have a hand in hospital cleanliness



BY JENNA PUDELEK

HAND hygiene is vital if a zero tolerance approach to superbugs is to be achieved, a Conservative frontbencher has said.

Greg Clark, the MP for Tunbridge Wells, said he was delighted to back KOS Media's Clean, Safe, Healthy campaign to combat healthcare-acquired infections in Kent.

He said: "Never has there been so much concern about infection in our hospital wards and never again will we have such a great opportunity locally to take lasting action against killer diseases such as Clostridium difficile and MRSA."

Mr Clark has joined KOS Media, publisher of this paper, and NHS trusts across the county, in the campaign to raise awareness and show that everyone can help NHS staff in their fight against infections simply by washing their hands with soap and water regularly, and using the alcohol provided in hospitals.

The shadow minister for the Cabinet Office said health secretary Alan Johnson's announcement in Parliament last week that approval had been given for a new Private Finance Initiative hospital in west Kent was tremendous news.

"This state-of-the-art hospital will catapult local hospital facilities into the 21st century,



ZERO TOLERANCE: Greg Clark MP encourages hand washing to help keep hospitals clean safe and healthy

while the single-roomed accommodation – replacing the often cramped and unsuitable conditions in our hospitals at present – will perhaps provide the greatest advance against infection that it is possible to take," he said.

Mr Clark praised work undertaken so far at Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust's Maidstone, and Kent and Sussex, hospitals in the wake of the damning Healthcare Commission report into two outbreaks of C diff that killed 90 patients.

"Action in the aftermath of the C diff tragedy has also been impressive. New director of infection prevention and control Dr Sara Mumford and her team have made sig-

nificant advances, and I am delighted to see the improvements already being made in reducing infection rates.

"But we must not be complacent," he said. "General cleanliness – washing hands before visiting hospitals and using the alcohol hand-wash – is essential if the 'zero tolerance' of infection that I and others have called for is to become a reality.

"We all have a responsibility in hospital to ensure that infection is not spread."

He added: "I congratulate KOS Media on this campaign and urge everyone to be Clean, Safe and Healthy as we look forward to a new era of hospital services in the county."

Abuse of NHS staff will not be tolerated

A BID to reduce abuse of NHS staff has been launched after shocking statistics showed 1,870 workers in Kent have been physically assaulted by patients in the last three years. "Your Choice of Treatment" targets people who are abusive to health professionals with a clear message – if you choose to assault NHS staff, you will face prosecution and possibly prison.

It is backed by health providers, the county council and the police, as well as players and officials from Gillingham FC. Adverts will soon be carrying the message.

Assaults are often carried out by individuals under the influence of alcohol or drugs, but this makes no difference to how they are treated by the courts.

Richard Hampton, director of the NHS Security Management Service, which is running the campaign, said: "Anecdotally we know those who assault our staff are often drunk or under the influence of drugs.

"This is no defence for such behaviour. The choice is yours – whether you are frustrated, drunk or on drugs, you will be held accountable for your actions. You could end up before the courts or in prison."

The campaign is part of a national bid to crack down on the problem, which has seen a marked increase in recent years.

Graham Gibbens, of Kent County Council, said: "We are all taking a stand against the abuse of NHS staff and raising the profile of this issue in a united way. Abuse of NHS staff must stop."

Groups most at risk include accident and emergency staff, paramedics and ambulance drivers.

Supt Peter Wedlake added: "All reported assaults are taken seriously by police and we will ensure anyone who commits this crime is dealt with and brought before the courts. This can ultimately lead to a prison sentence.

"Although we realise people are often in stressful situations within hospital environments, this is no excuse or reason to vent their frustration or upset staff who are there to help them."

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Inspectors are pleased with improvements as schools pull together

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

IWADE Community Primary School is heading in the right direction, according to Ofsted inspectors.

The mixed Sittingbourne school was given a 'satisfactory' rating across the board by the three-man inspection team, however their in-depth report said the building blocks were in place for progress.

The inspectors paid tribute to headteacher Katrina Ware, her staff, 298 pupils and parents in helping transform the school's fortunes since it became formally federated with Bobbing School in September last year.

In terms of overall effectiveness, the report found Iwade to be "recovering well from a period of significant disruption in leadership and staff, and is benefiting from the newly-formed federation."

"The headteacher's leadership skills are evident in the way she has promoted very effective teamwork across the two schools to identify and disseminate effective practice."

"The reversal in the standards and pupils' satisfactory achievement across the school shows the success of the school's work and indicates it has a good capacity for further improvement."

Improving teaching and learning, raising standards through making marking and target setting more specific, and increasing pupils' engagement in lessons, were identified by the inspectors as among the areas the school could improve.

Ms Ware was pleased with the report's findings, saying: "I thought it was a very positive report reflecting where the school is



READY: The inspectors' report says Iwade Community Primary School has everything in place for progress



right now and shows federations really do work.

"We were hopeful of the outcome because it says our self assessment is spot on."

"I think the most positive parts were the quality of teaching, as there were no inadequacies, while there were also good things said about management and leadership, and the behaviour of pupils."

"We need to improve quality of teaching and further improve the curriculum."

"Overall, I think the teamwork was absolutely fantastic leading up to the Ofsted inspection. It shows how much the school has moved on, we're now pulling together as one big team."

"I'm very confident we can push on. The whole report says we've got a very good capacity to improve further."

The school received 'satisfactory' ratings in achievement and standards; personal development and well-being; teaching and learning; curriculum; care, guidance and support; and leadership and management.

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BREAK TIME



Eggstraordinary gift

YOUNGSTERS at Meadowfield School were given an Easter surprise when a huge chocolate egg was dropped off outside their Sittingbourne classrooms.

The grand gift was organized by car dealership SMC Mitsubishi as the main draw of a fundraising drive.

The Sittingbourne-based firm delivered a similar-sized egg last year, which was bought for £218.

Headteacher Philip Rankin said money raised by the sale of the egg would be used to buy outdoor furniture and equipment.

Meadowfield is the largest special school in Kent, catering for students between the ages of four and 19 with learning difficulties.

Miscellaneous fun to raise cash for drama

PARENTS and teachers were put on the spot during Queen Elizabeth Grammar School's annual quiz.

The popular fundraising event was held recently to raise money for the Faversham school's plans to build a dedicated drama building.

A ploughman's lunch-style buffet was provided as the eight person teams went head-to-head in a quiz famed for its randomness, known as the miscellany.

The total amount of money raised from the event is not known yet, but is hoped to be several hundred pounds.

SEND your schools news and pictures to yourswale@kosmedia.co.uk. You can also upload your own video clips of schools events on to www.yourkenttv.co.uk

yourswaleblogger

Each week we get a mystery writer to air their views on living in Swale...

Running off at the mouth about London Marathon

IT'S coming up to that time of year again, when do-gooders decide to tramp the streets of London and make the rest of us feel bad as we watch from the sofa recovering from a skinful of lager and a dodgy chicken balti from the night before.

Yes, April 13 is London Marathon day. Don't get me wrong. I think it is admirable that people want to run their legs off in the aid of charity. Good luck to them, if they want to challenge themselves and their bodies to the ultimate in athletic endeavour. However, I could do without all the razzamatazz that comes with the event. All those wacky costumes make me reach for the remote. I would rather watch 24-hours of Last of the Summer Wine (or UKTV Gold as it's otherwise known) than that.

Every year the BBC seems obliged to cover the marathon. You can see the desperation on that wee Scottish gnome's face, Hazel Irvine,

as she desperately accosts some numpty wearing a Kiss Me Quick hat, diving flippers and a sponge model of a kangaroo on his back. You can tell she is praying he can manage to string a few words together. "My mates all think I'm mad" they usually say. Yes, mad, and if he actually has real friends they all probably hope he will end up in the bottom of Victoria Dock – running with the fishes.

I mean a sport can't be that interesting when the highlight is watching a woman urinate by the side of the road as happened to Paula Radcliffe a few years ago.

Perhaps, even worse is the desperate need to catch one of the celebs as they run by. Because we all know that they are the only really interesting entrants, not Alan from St Albans running for Cancer Research. No, it's vital that we hear what Gordon Ramsay has to spout about from his lumpy face or that bloke from EastEnders who works in the café.

My hate of the marathon has less to do with the event itself rather than what the people are actually doing. I mean running, it's not really a

sport; it's just an extension of an everyday need to be mobile. Lets face it, over the millennia, man has tried very hard to do everything he possibly can to avoid running; getting on a horse or a camel or devising the wheel and peddling a bike; even inventing the internal combustion engine. There is a deep-seated need in the human psyche to avoid running.

I hate it. When I was at school and we had to do cross country runs I would do anything to avoid it. Even resort to self harm. By a strange quirk of fate (or more probably because I always had my fingers stuck up it), I could make my nose bleed at will. "Sorry sir I can't do the run; not in this condition." Of course I nearly died of anaemia by the end of term but it was worth it.

Actually, the reason I really hate the marathon is that I know I haven't got the guts to do it myself, but I'm quite happy to give someone else ten quid to do it for me.

EDITOR'S NOTE: All bloggers are supplied with full name and address of the authors. They do not reflect the view of the newspaper but are designed to give our readers the chance to air their views.

GET IN TOUCH...

We want to hear your views



EMAIL: Letters, comments, views (along with your name) to: yourswale@kosmedia.co.uk



TEXT: **SWALE** then your message to: 81800 (please remember to include you name)

LET US KNOW...

If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering contact the editor, **Chris Britcher**, on 01303 817171 or email him on the details above. If you want to be the next Swale blogger then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of around 550 words) and email it to the editor. And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town log-on to www.yourswale.co.uk.

Write to The Editor, Yourswale, Kos Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR.

* We cannot guarantee all articles will be published and all are at the editor's discretion

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Sex and Drugs and Rock 'n' Roll	Wednesdays
Mathematics (GCSE equivalent)	Tuesdays

Courses run from 6.30–8.30pm from week commencing 21 April for 6 weeks.

Registration will be held on the first evening of attendance, 22, 23 or 24 April, from 4.30pm. Short Course Centre, Blake Building, Chatham Maritime.



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Villa Isis Guest House (BB)	3*	St Helier	355	359	369	379
Norfolk Hotel (BB)	2*	St Helier	375	379	385	399
Runnymede Court (BB)	2*	St Helier	415	405	415	419
Talana Hotel (HB)	2*	St Saviour	439	445	475	479
Beachcombers Hotel (HB)	2*	Grouville	439	475	475	509
Ambassadeur Hotel (HB)	3*	St Clement	439	449	479	505
Mayfair Hotel (BB)	3*	St Helier	N/A	N/A	520	485
Metropole Hotel (BB)	3*	St Helier	N/A	N/A	520	485
Merton Hotel (BB)	3*	St Helier	599	579	585	635

What is Included

- Coach transfer from / to local Kent pick up points^
- Return flights from Kent to Jersey – 24th May, 7th June, 5th July, & 16th August
- Flight & Ferry crossing on 3 May & 13 Sep
- Return transfers in resort
- 8 days/ 7 nights accommodation based on two sharing twin/double room on B&B basis*
- Half board at the Talana, Beachcombers & Ambassadeur Hotels
- Representative services in resort
- All current taxes & charges



What is Extra

- Half board at the Norfolk, Runnymede, Mayfair, Metropole & Merton. Not available at Villa Isis.
- Holiday Insurance – ask for details
- Single rooms - supplement may apply

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yourcompetition

WIN a meal and tickets to Flamenco Express show

THE FINEST flamenco and the tastiest tapas are on offer for one lucky Yourcanterbury reader and a guest.

The show Flamenco Express is coming to the Marlowe Theatre on Friday, April 18 and features dancers, singers and guitarists in what is described as the fiercest expression of human spirit ever devised.

There is no better – or fitting – place to enjoy a pre-theatre meal than Carmen's Spanish restaurant and tapas bar. Just a short walk from the Marlowe in Sun Street, Carmen's offers a varied tapas menu (with more than 15 little dishes to choose from), and other traditional food and drink.

To win two tickets to Flamenco Express (which starts at 7.30pm) and a meal for two, including drinks, at Carmen's before the show, simply

answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your e-mail address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to Marlowe Comp, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6SR.

Closing date is April 9, 2008.

Question: When is Flamenco Express coming to the Marlowe Theatre?

No purchase necessary.

For our full terms and conditions please visit www.kent-news.co.uk or to receive a copy via the post, call 01303 817073.

If you do not wish to receive any literature please write 'no literature' on your entry.

To book tickets for Flamenco Express, call the Marlowe box office on 01227 787787 or go online to www.marlowetheatre.com.



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EMAIL: Email your letters to us at yoursware@kosmedia.co.uk

TALK TIME

PAUL SMITH

The legal expert took the time to talk about his Sittingbourne-based firm and working in Swale.



Tell me a little bit about yourself and your work.

I'm the managing director of Due Diligence Solutions. I started the company in 2003, with my wife Sue, following Morrison's takeover of Safeway. Prior to that I was in charge of legal compliance at Safeway. I'm constantly aiming to keep driving the business forward, to develop strong local routes, to create a brand that delivers piece of mind for businesses and to create a secure environment for customers and everyone who works for us.

What are the best and worst aspects in terms of working in Sittingbourne?

I love the area and the Swale community spirit. I find Swale a great environment to work in and feel the potential in this area is colossal. We are proud that our roots are in Swale. In terms of least favourite it's difficult really, although I guess I have to highlight the Sheppey Crossing problems. Being caught at the Kings Ferry Bridge when the new Sheppey Crossing is closed, due to high winds, can be frustrating, especially when you have clients to see.

What have you achieved this year?

We have enjoyed another good year and I am delighted to report we are improving year-on-year. We have established a regional training centre in Sittingbourne, created a focal-point for supporting legal compliance for Swale businesses, we have achieved considerable complimentary feedback, via independent third party organisations and through ISO 9001 and 18001 certification.

We have also developed an excellent relationship with Kent Fire and Rescue Service, as well as many other local organisations, including Gillingham Football Club.

Tell us something people don't know about you.

I once held the British sea angling record for the largest shore-caught lesser spotted dogfish. I was only 14.

YOUR LETTERS

DON'T LET THEM GET YOUR CASH

It's about time we fought fraudsters

Pleased to see your newspaper is campaigning against benefit fraudsters. I've always found those who steal in such a way despicable and I'm glad to see some pressure applied to ensure they are clamped down on.

L Potter
Via email

Will money really go to community?

While I believe your new campaign to crackdown on benefit fraud is a good one, there remains a nagging fear the money retrieved will simply go towards digging the council out of the financial hole it currently finds itself in, rather than the community projects you suggest.

Chris Weir
Faversham

It shouldn't take us this long for result

Can anyone explain quite why it is taking so long for Mark



COMMENT ONLINE TOO

NOT only can you use email and letters to respond to our stories, don't forget you can comment via our website too.

Beneath most stories on the www.yourswale.co.uk website there is the facility to leave your comments on whatever YOU thought of the online article.

To leave your remarks, simply click on the 'Add your comments' link and tell us what you think. And remember, www.yourswale.co.uk is updated daily, bringing you the latest, breaking news from across Faversham, Sittingbourne, Sheerness and all the villages in Swale.

We will include the best on these pages too - ensuring your comments reach the widest possible audience. In addition, if you find your newsagent, supermarket or petrol station runs out of Yoursware before you've picked up your copy, you never need to miss out.

On www.yourswale.co.uk you can access, for free, the full newspaper in our highly-acclaimed e-editions.

Bilsborough to learn his fate?
(Council boss saga has been 'fudged', Yoursware, March 26).
Surely if ever there was a case

for a speedy conclusion, with additional steps taken to ensure it did not drag on for any longer than was strictly necessary, this



was it? He's been on gardening leave for 15 months, still rakes in £100,000-a-year and every penny is coming from taxpayers.

The disciplinary has no doubt cost a good few bob too, yet rather than bringing that to a swift result, so the council could finally move on, we must now wait for at least another month.

That is not good news for anyone involved, and a truly disappointing sign of these troubled times we live in.

S Menary
Via email

Sorry charade has gone on too long

I know this is a recurring theme, but just why are we still paying the chief executive of Swale council so much money for not working for us for so long?

His disciplinary is over now... surely a decision has been reached, and the council should have the sound commonsense to make that known and stop this whole sorry charade.

Margaret G Smith
Via email

We can't act fast enough to go slow

Thank goodness there is finally set to be some speed restrictions

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Village slow down

SPEED limits on the notorious A31 taking Faversham with Aided as to be implemented in the next few weeks with a 40mph restriction

put in place on the A251 (Village slow down, Yourswale, March 26).

I've lost count of the amount of times I have seen cars smashed up after taking the tight bends too fast, or near misses as idiots try and over-take at ludicrous speeds.

I just hope the police will be monitoring the situation carefully to ensure the limits are enforced.

Y Guthrie
Baddlesmere

No more Tesco cash

TESCO has refused to increase its offer of £200,000 to offset the impact of extending the Faversham store. It looks likely that Tesco owners will be forced to close the store

Perhaps finally store extension can open

I was pleased to read it appears the long-running row over the money Tesco were being forced to cough up to extend its Faversham store appears to be at an end (Yourswale, March 26). I suspect the majority of people welcome the additional choice and range of goods the extension will bring, and just want it to be completed so we can use it.

The sum of £200,000 would seem more than sufficient and I'm sure a lot of good for the community can

come from it. So can we take the cash, use it for whatever purpose will benefit us all, and let our new, extended, Tesco open its doors.

Peter Renshaw
Via email

Know all the facts about toilet bullies

Many readers will be familiar with the issue of bullying in schools.

School toilets are recognised as a hotspot for bullies. A recent survey from the UK Youth Parliament showed that 40 per cent of pupils feared the behaviour of other students in school toilets.

Many people believe that it is possible to "design out" bullying from toilets. I have written a free factsheet to help schools make the right decisions when planning new school toilets and washrooms.

The factsheet is aimed at pupils, parents, teachers and governors – all of whom are likely to read your newspaper. Entitled "Reducing the impact of bullying and anti-social behaviour in school toilets and washrooms", it is available from schooltoilets@wallgate.com or School Toilets Factsheet, Wallgate Limited, Crow Lane, Wilton, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP2 0HB.

Jean Donovan
Author, via email

Trains can't move freight like trucks

I have been a truck driver for more than 30 years, but the argument

between the merits of train and truck has been around far longer.

I would like to see fewer trucks on our already crowded roads, but I don't think the rail could manage it – it has a job taking people from A to B, let alone freight.

Also, at what cost? If passenger fares are any guidelines, I'd hate to think what our goods would cost us.

Then almost every bank holiday there are line closures, bad weather, strikes... it would not be viable.

We should take notice of our European partners and stop trucks moving about over weekends – and we should charge them.

We are still an island, so it would be easy to set up – this would discourage lots of trucks coming due to the costs they would incur across Europe.

I'm off to Germany now to deliver within 24 hours. Could a train do that door to door? I don't think so.

R Staples
via email

Run the marathon and support hospice

The Ellenor Lions Hospices are asking for any runners who have been lucky enough to get a place in this year's Flora London Marathon to run for them, please contact the Fundraising Team on 01322 422830.

Ellenor Lions Hospices provide vital care and support to adults and children with life-threatening illnesses. Your sponsorship would make a difference to the Ellenor Lions Hospices enabling them to carry on their very important work.

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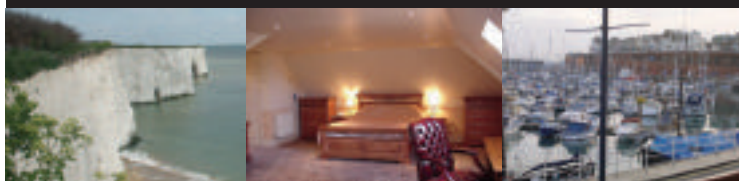
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MON 28 APRIL

AN EVENING WITH GERVASE PHINN

Hilarious tales of life as a school inspector in the Yorkshire Dales

WED 30 APRIL

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yourswaleleisure



EDUCATIONAL: Gervase Phinn will entertain with an amusing selection of anecdotes from his life as a writer, broadcaster and teacher

Back to school with Gervase

The affable Yorkshireman shares some gems from his life in education

AN EVENING WITH GERVASE PHINN

Wednesday, April 30
The Orchard Theatre, Dartford

DUBBED "the James Herriot of schools", best-selling author Gervase Phinn will be sharing his hilarious tales of life in education.

An Evening with Gervase Phinn sees the writer, broadcaster and former school inspector revealing some of the most amusing anecdotes from his lengthy career. Best known for his five autobiographical novels, starting with *The Other Side of the Dale*, the affable Yorkshireman is bursting with enthusiasm for his subject.

"I started jotting down things about children when I started teaching," he said. "I have about 50 notebooks full of the blunt things they've said. Once, a child of six looked at me and said 'have you ever thought that when I'm 21, you'll probably be dead?'. I've always collected these little gems."

Phinn, 61, started teaching in a

Rotherham comprehensive and went on to teach in state schools for the next 15 years, before becoming an education adviser and school inspector.

His hugely popular novels have sold more than 750,000 copies and he is now embarking on his seventh theatre tour. Working as a freelance lecturer, broadcaster and writer, he is still involved in education - other roles include consultant for the Open University, Honorary Fellow at St John's College, York, and the Fellow and Visiting Professor of Education at the University of Teeside.

Innocence

The enormous appeal of his books lies, Phinn believes, in the innocence of childhood and their gentle humour.

"They are life-affirming stories and not offensive," he said. "I received eight or nine letters this morning and one was from a woman suffering from cancer. She said that my books just lifted her spirits. They are all about the joys of children, the funny and sometimes quite poignant things they say."

The tour is already proving popular, reportedly outselling Motorhead at one venue. Phinn insisted that

audiences will not be subjected to a lecture about the education system, but he does have his concerns.

"I'm very optimistic about young people and I feel sad that when they get good results, the papers say exams are too easy," he said. "I don't think that. I'm also sad when teachers get bombarded with paperwork. All the league tables and so on, it takes them away from what they're trying to do. They should be left alone to teach."

As a father of four, Phinn believes his insight into school life helped him to raise happy and well-adjusted children. Now living in Japan, China, Geneva and Bermuda, his grown-up kids make him very proud.

"We've always encouraged them to follow a dream and be adventurous," he said. "I'm amazed by them. They all went to comprehensives. As a teacher, I wanted parents to say to me what I said to my children's head teachers - 'if you have any problems with them, contact me immediately because they'll be in twice as much trouble at home'."

The show starts at 7.45pm and tickets cost £15. Call the box office on 01322 220000 or book online at www.orchardtheatre.co.uk.

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DOES A MONSTER LIVE NEXT DOOR?

Saturday, April 5
Gulbenkian Cinema, Canterbury

THE mysterious tale of a young girl's alarming neighbour will be played out at the Gulbenkian Theatre this weekend.

Does A Monster Live Next Door? is presented by Tall Stories, the company behind the Gulbenkian's successful Christmas show The Gruffalo. With all the drama, music and physical storytelling that Tall Stories is famous for, they bring this extraordinary tale vividly to life.

Maud spends her days helping her parents to make toys for other children and at night, she hears frightening noises. She believes a monster is trying to invade the house and is anxious for help. But when a girl calling herself Detective Frieda turns up, will she offer Maud the right type of help? Designed for children aged six and up, the 50-minute show features creative storytelling, humour and music.

The performance will be held at 2pm. Tickets cost £7 or £30 for a Family and Friends ticket (five people). Tall Stories will present a Holiday Gulbkidspecial storytelling workshop for five to eight-year-olds at 3.15pm.

For details call the box office on 01227 769075 or see www.gulbenkiantheatre.co.uk.

THE GREAT AMERICAN SONGBOOK

Wednesday, April 9
Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury



CELEBRATE four decades of great American song in another fast-paced revue by Ian Adams.

Adams has put together this great evening of entertainment for the Friends of the Marlowe.

The Great American Songbook will take the audience on a musical journey from the early hits of Tin Pan Alley, through to the Broadway musicals of Cole Porter, Rodgers, Hart and Hammerstein, then on to the Golden Age of movie songwriters.

The impressive line-up stars Jane Webster (pictured), who recently played the Mother Abbess in The Sound of Music at the London Palladium.

She will be joined by tenor Paul Arden-Griffith, who created the role of Monsieur Reyner in Phantom of the Opera at the Haymarket Theatre.

The show also features Georgina Todd, principal singer on board the cruise ship Oriana, and local girl Rebecca Reaney, who will soon join the cast of The Mousetrap in the West End. Song and dance man Adams, musical director Laurence Payne and percussionist Bobby Cook complete the cast.

The show starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £14.50/£12.50, concessions available.

Call the box office on 01227 787787 or book online at www.marlowetheatre.com.

LUKE SMITH

Wednesday, April 2
Orange Street Music Venue,
Canterbury

CANTERBURY-born singer/songwriter Luke Smith will be performing his anthems of sadness and joy tonight.

The home-loving artist has played piano in the city's pubs and bars since leaving school 12 years ago and hosted a popular cabaret-style evening called Luke Smith Presents... until he stopped to play intimate, low-key gigs instead.

He recorded his first two albums in his bedroom, the third being captured in a wooden hut by the sea, just a few miles from his home.

He formed his own band The Feelings and has attracted celebrity fans such as PJ Harvey's guitarist Josh Klinghoffer and Caravan front man Pye Hastings.



Smith has supported a range of artists including Suzanne Vega, Katherine Jenkins and The Kinks legend Ray Davies.

Song titles include I Like Being Cosy, I'm Intense and It's Not Wrong, It's Just Different.

Critics have compared

him favourably to musicians such as Ian Dury and Chas & Dave.

The gig starts at 8pm. For more details, log onto www.orangestreetmusic.com.

Find out more about him online at www.lukesmith-music.com.

SWALE LEISURE

Farming World blooms with a week of fun

VISITORS to Farming World can enjoy a Flower Fun Week from Monday, April 7 to Friday, April 11.

There will be children's flower crafts and games, as well as sunflower sowing, from noon to 4pm.

The attraction at Boughton is open daily from 9.30am to 5.30pm. For more information call Farming World on 01227 751144 or visit the website at www.farming-world.com.

Go back to the 30s for murder mystery night

AMATEUR sleuths are invited to take part in a murder mystery evening at the Shepherd Neame Visitor Centre in Faversham on Friday.

A game of Murder at a 1930s dinner party gets out of hand in All That Glitters. The fun starts at the centre in Court Street at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £34.95 including a three-course dinner.

For more details call 01795 542285 or see www.shepherdneame.co.uk.

BBQ and music for Market Place launch

BROGDALE Farm will be celebrating the grand opening of the Market Place on Saturday and Sunday.

There will be live music, a barbecue, a bouncy castle, tours of the orchards and the Mini Railway, plus the chance to buy some great produce.

The event will run at the farm in Brogdale Road, Faversham, from 10am to 5pm on Saturday and 10.30am to 4.30pm on Sunday. For more information call 01795 536250 or go online at www.brogdalefarm.co.uk.

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WOULD you like to see your event publicised on these pages?

Send full details – including dates, times, ticket prices and how to book – to jane.connolly@kosmedia.co.uk or by post to the address on page 2. Submissions should arrive at least two weeks before the preferred date of publication.

If possible, include a good photograph to illustrate your event. We cannot guarantee coverage, but we will do our best to promote local events.

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► The Other Boleyn Girl 12A

Fri – 6.20pm
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at Dover Castle, Knole, and Penshurst Place.

► In the Valley of Elah 15

Fri – 8.50pm
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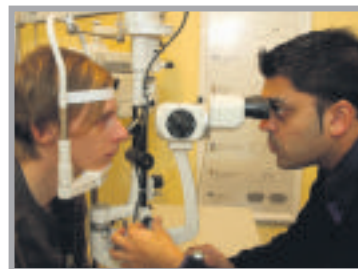
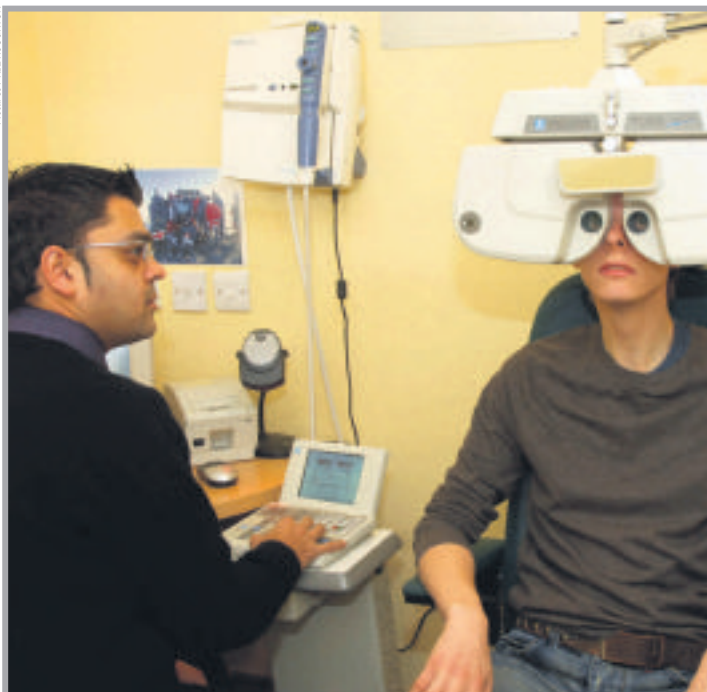


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Pictures: PAUL HUGHTON



EYE TEST

It had been two years since my last test so store optometrist
Manish Patel put my peepers through their paces. The test proved
invaluable as my sight had deteriorated a small amount since the
last exam.

The eyes have it

British designer Jasper Conran's range of eyewear has arrived at opticians, Specsavers. The range is exclusive to the High Street chain and is Conran's first foray into the world of affordable eyewear. With 36 styles available there should be a look to suit every face. Reporter **Tom Betts** ventured to his local branch for an eye test before trying out a selection of the £125 glasses for himself.

FAVOURITES

My favourite pair of the day. A lightweight design that complimented and softened out some of the stronger features of my face.

To search for shopping, services, leisure and entertainment log on @
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1960S

The strong black frame gave these specs a 1960s feel with a contemporary, cosmopolitan twist.



PREPPY

This slightly preppy style was extremely comfortable to wear but perhaps suited to those with a different shaped face.



COMFORTABLE

This black framed pair provide a strong outline. These black specs were the most similar to my usual preferred style and also very comfortable.



SHADES

The new Jasper Conran range also includes prescription sunglasses like these.

SWALE SHOPPING

Shoppers say cheese at Waitrose showcase

CHEESE lovers will be in heaven at Waitrose as the supermarket launches its French Cheese Showcase.

Shoppers will be able to taste the wide variety of cheeses on offer and learn about different ways of enjoying them – from baked Camembert with crusty bread and celery, to grilled blue cheese and figs on focaccia. The promotion will run until April 27 alongside the Waitrose French Wine Showcase.

Disabled facilities arrive at Bluewater

BLUEWATER has unveiled its new high dependency toilets, making shopping easier for people with profound disability.

Located in the West Village, the new facility is the first of the planned toilet upgrades at the shopping centre. The high dependency toilets feature fully automatic tracking hoists, height adjustable changing benches and a centrally placed toilet. It is the first facility of its kind to be introduced at a shopping centre in the south east.

Get online and get a new look this season

THERE is good news for shopaholics now that high street favourite New Look has launched its online store.

Shoppers will no longer have to hunt through stores for the latest coveted items, simply ordering from the comfort of their computer desk. With all the latest styles for women, men and children, a sale section and even a virtual wardrobe feature, dressing to impress has never been easier. Find out more at www.newlook.co.uk.

Get onboard SeaFrance modelling competition

ASPIRING models could be spotted during two scouting days at Fremlin Walk in Maidstone.

On Saturday, April 19 and Sunday, April 20, applicants will be able to submit their photograph and details to the SeaFrance Modelsearch Competition. Anyone aged between four and 30 can enter – just visit the shopping precinct between 11am and 3pm that weekend.

The best applicants will be chosen to compete in heats and finals onboard the SeaFrance Rodin in May, with some great prizes up for grabs. Find out more online at www.seafrance.com/modelsearch.

Peace of jewellery that will help Cambodia

DRESS like a celebrity and help a good cause by purchasing By The Stones Peace Bangles.

The pretty bangles come in a range of colours and are sported by the likes of Beyonce Knowles, Rihanna and Lindsey Lohan. The gold plated bangles have coloured leather inlays and are inscribed with 'peace for Cambodia'.

By The Stones supports direct employment and fair trade schemes, as well as donating money to the Bridges Across Borders Cambodia Project. The bangles are available from www.kuati.com, priced at £95 for a set of three.



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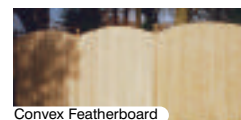
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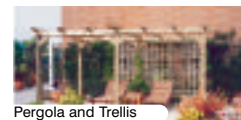


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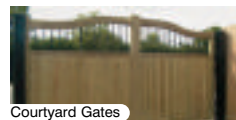


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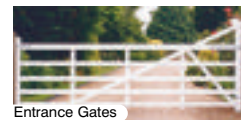


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Trio to flow wherever the music takes them

BY GARETH ARNOLD

MEDWAY'S Aliquot Flow features on The Ether this week performing two acoustic tracks.

The Ether is the county's premier showcase for local musical talent, and is available to access on our free broadband online channel – www.yourkenttv.co.uk.

The acoustic three-piece, consisting of Jerome Eveson on vocals and guitar, Theo Dudhill on bass and drummer/percussionist Darren Wooley, have been gigging in and around the Medway Towns for the last two years, and have already played some high profile gigs including two of the annual all day Antfest gigs held at the Command House in the summer.

Bassist Theo explained the reasons behind the band's formation.

He said: "We originate from the muddy depths of the dingy Medway delta. Our inspiration is founded in the realisation that watching bands is extremely cool, but being part of one whose music you dig is prominently more fulfilling."

"We are prepared for what it takes and know how serious music is and are determined to have fun whilst doing so as independent artists. Who knows where it will lead us, but all that's irrelevant as we want to go only where our music takes us."

The band finished recording a seven track EP in January which includes a previously unreleased instrumental. Currently they are finalising the art work for the release called Fiction Undiscovered, with the inlays printed on recycled card.

To give fans a sneak preview, the band have



INDEPENDENT: The band have produced a series of CDs to give away at their gigs

been giving away a limited run of free promo EPs at recent gigs, including two recent shows.

Theo said: "We played two gigs on March 8, the first time we've done that. We were at Bluewater at 2pm, then quickly shifted over to the White Horse in Rainham to support Secret Love Society and Superhans at 8pm."

"That week we managed to give away approximately 100 free CDs which we printed ourselves, crudely but effectively."

"We'll continue doing this at our gigs this year, and at some point we'll start printing them with two different songs just to mix it up a bit, so try and come to as many gigs as possible if you want to grab some others, including the three new ones."

Aliquot Flow's next gig is on Wednesday, April 16, at The Purple Bar on the Medway Campus of Greenwich University in Chatham.

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MOOLI: Clea Llewellyn performs an acoustic version of Not the One



LOS SALVADORES: Top local band dazzle in The Ether



THE SUBMISSION: The punk band perform their song, Soldier

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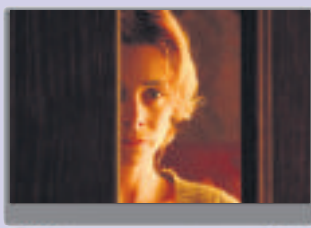
From the screenwriter of *The Devil Wears Prada*, the movie centres on Jane (Katherine Heigl), an idealistic, romantic and selfless woman... a perennial bridal attendant whose own happy ending is nowhere in sight. But when younger sister Tess captures the heart of Jane's boss - with whom she is secretly in love - Jane begins to re-examine her lifestyle.

DRILLBIT TAYLOR (12A)



Ryan (Troy Gentile), Wade (Nate Hartley) and Emmitt (David Dorfman) attend their first day at high school and they're psyched... until they meet up with Filkins (Alex Frost), a school bully who comes off a little like Hannibal Lecter. They seek out some protection by placing an ad. Their best response - and the cheapest - comes from Drillbit Taylor (Owen Wilson), a down-on-his luck soldier of fortune who lives a lonely existence on the beach.

THE ORPHANAGE (15)



The Orphanage centers on Laura (Belén Rueda) who purchases her beloved childhood orphanage with dreams of reopening the abandoned facility as a place for disabled children. Once there, Laura discovers the new environment awakens her son's imagination, but the games he plays with an invisible friend turn into something more disturbing.

Hottie Hilton's got a new role

■ BY KATE WHITING

HEIRESS, entrepreneur, reality TV star, singer, party girl and sometime jailbird - Paris Hilton has played some fairly diverse roles in her life. But it's as a serious film actress that the 27-year-old now wants to be known.

Her movie career got off to a mixed start with 2005 horror *House Of Wax* followed by flops *Bottoms Up* and National Lampoon's *Pledge This!* And the less said about certain intimate amateur footage which spread across the internet, the better.

She's now back on the silver screen in her most high-profile film role to date, playing, somewhat predictably, a glamorous blonde in *The Hottie & The Nottie*.

"This is the first film I've actually really been serious with," Paris admits, flicking her blonde hair extensions - her own branded line - out of her tanned face.

"Like, before, I never had an acting coach, I just really winged it and this time I worked with [coach] Ivana Chubbuck every single day for hours a day. I've worked really hard for it."

Paris plays Christabelle Abbott, a typical Californian babe, beloved by most of the men in Los Angeles, and former childhood friend Nate Cooper (Joel Moore).

When Nate realises Christabelle is the only girl he's ever loved, his attempts to woo her are slightly hampered by her hideously ugly best friend June.

"I just thought it was a sweet story and a really fun film with a really beautiful message," says Paris, "a really cute love story."

As Nate gets closer to Christabelle, she reveals she has vowed not to date another man until June finds true love.

Undaunted, Nate sets out to find the perfect

VIEW THIS PREVIEW

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man for June - even if it means hypnotising people before they'll go anywhere near her.

Inner beauty is the film's profound message, believes Paris, who co-produced the project.

"I think every girl has bad days. We are all human. What matters is how you are on the inside that shines through," she says.

These are strong words from a woman who has built her own fortune through modelling and various fashion and beauty lines.

A top model by the time she was 19, she went on to earn a reputation as a socialite, before, in 2003, landing her own reality TV show - *The Simple Life* - which, along with best friend Nicole Richie, rocketed her to international stardom.

So far so good. But *The Simple Life* got a bit more complicated when Paris and Nicole pub-



SERIOUS: Paris Hilton wants to be a respected actress

licly fell out and was cancelled by Fox after three series.

Paris turned her hand to writing and singing, releasing her autobiography and an album.

Last year, to the general glee of paparazzi and tabloid hacks around the globe, she was sentenced to spend 45 days in prison for driving with a suspended licence.

In the end, she spent just over 20 days in detention, and left saying she was a changed woman. Acting is, she believes, another opportunity for people to see the "real", reformed Paris.

"People who think they know me, only know the made-up media character. But that's not who I really am," she adds.



THE HOTTIE & THE NOTTIE
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Red Sea: What a dive!

BY EMILY ASHTON

SWAYING precariously on the seabed, I kept my mind off what was coming up by watching swarms of fish dart in and out of the coral.

Instructor Nikki looked calm and collected as she made her way along our line, where we were trying to keep our balance and not float away or crash face-first on to the sand. She gave my buddy the OK sign, shook his hand and turned to face me.

This was my moment. The swooshing sound of bubbles swept through my ears. I took a few deep breaths and slowly pulled the mask away from my face, grimacing as the sea trickled in, past my nose, past my eyes... I shook my head, shot to the surface and spluttered. Definitely not a natural diver, then!

We were on an intense five-day course to become divers in the enviable surroundings of the Red Sea, based at a dive centre in the resort of Taba Heights in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula, with views stretching across the water to Saudi Arabia and Jordan.

The PADI Open Water Course is carefully designed to take wannabe divers through the basics of scuba diving with the aim of being able to dive without an instructor to the depth of 18 metres.

It involves quite a bit of time in the classroom, leaving me some days gazing longingly out of the window at the sunny beach. There



FISHY STUFF: Red Sea diving off the Taba Heights

are tests and then a final exam, as well as a series of practical 'skills' to perform underwater in front of the instructor. It sounds rigorous – and it is.

The course was necessarily intense, but the feeling of accomplishment at the end overrides any annoyance about hours missed out on topping up your tan.

Of course, The Red Sea is a beautiful place

to start diving, with more than 1,100 species of fish and some 1,000 miles of coral reef to explore.

There are plenty of dive centres along the Egyptian coast from which to choose, but Taba Heights has a five-star centre that caters for all ages in a secluded location.

The resort itself is aimed at people who want to enjoy Egypt in luxurious surroundings. Each of the five-star hotels lining the coast is gated and small buses taking people around the area are constantly checked by security staff.

The white sandy beaches are dotted with tasteful sun loungers and, unlike Sharm El Sheikh, the area is unspoiled by high-rise buildings and noise.

Visitors to the carefully-created resort could easily take a day tour or two to nearby Mount Sinai or St Catherine's Monastery – but most tend not to. The hotels are so opulent and the staff so eager to please that a dive trip is enough of an adventure for one holiday.

Of course, one sport isn't enough for everyone – and the boys in our group took to the golf course.

The 18-hole championship course looks a little like it would in a flashy computer game – all breathtaking red mountain ranges, stunning flat greens and wide blue ocean. Quad-biking is also on offer for adventurous sorts.

This isn't real Egypt, and doesn't really pretend to be. For that, you need to spend a few days in Cairo or Alexandria. But if you want a relaxing, sumptuous break that virtually guarantees good weather, then Taba Heights is definitely worth a visit. It probably won't be your last.

FACT FILE: EGYPT

Time difference	UK + 1hr
Capital	Cairo
Population	Approx 80.3 million
Currency	Egyptian pound (109 to £1)
Religion	Muslim
Climate	Arid
Language	Arabic

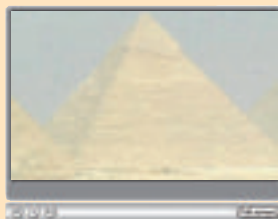
Holiday details

Emily Ashton was a guest of Longwood Holidays, which offers a learn-to-dive package at Taba Heights from £549 per person.

Price includes seven nights' half-board at the five-star Hyatt Regency, Taba Heights, and includes free upgrade to sea view, 15 per cent discount on beverages, 25 per cent discount on treatments and Club Olympus products, five-day PADI Open Water Course at Red Sea Waterworld, including all equipment.

Prices per person (two sharing and both completing PADI Open Water Course) are based on early February departures from Gatwick. Prices include flights, transfers, accommodation, in-flight meals, in-resort rep service and all taxes and surcharges. Certification and study materials not included in price. Study material is purchased prior to departure, and it is advisable to begin reading the manual prior to starting course. Extras payable locally.

Longwood reservations: 0208 418 2525 and www.longwoodholidays.co.uk. Resort information available at www.tabaheights.com.



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YOUR TV REVIEW

BY TOM BETTS

THE APPRENTICE
BBC1, 9pm, Wednesday

"TVE got you two van loads of fish," may well be the most memorable greeting in TV for many a year.

The crop of 16 candidates who signed up for the BBC's flagship reality show may have been expecting a champagne reception but orders are orders and some of the "country's brightest minds" marched down to Islington market nevertheless.

Selling as much seafood as they could muster, the two teams set about doing exactly what any business person worth their salt would avoid and started selling off their stock at ludicrously cheap prices.

Knocking out lobsters worth 20 quid at a fiver a pop is perhaps not the best idea when trying to turn in a profit.

Yes, welcome to the always excellent programme, *The Apprentice*, which returned to our screens last week.

For a show primarily about business it's amazing how conventional financial logic and acumen are hurled out the window so early on in favour of fast talking, insult trading and, good, old-fashioned sucking up to the boss.

Not that any of that matters to us viewers of course, in fact it makes it better.

Aside from being quite beautifully shot, what makes this show work where so many other reality shows fail is that it revels in its own nastiness, focusing on the candidates' errors rather than their successes.

It's also a lot better than the American version where the most interesting thing on display is Donald Trump's spectacular gravity-defying hair weave.

Back in Blighty the world's scariest master of ceremonies, Sir Alan Sugar, presides over proceedings, showing the



MASTER: Sir Alan Sugar shows the would-be apprentices who's the boss from the first show

contestants little more than utter disdain from the off.

Fixing the two teams with his best Angry Dad stare as they entered the boardroom for a verbal punch up, he wastes no time in letting the insults fly.

While the 45 minutes leading up to the firing provide good entertainment it's the boardroom scenes which really shine as Sugar takes centre stage and moves in for the kill.

Nicholas, the barrister who was unable to defend himself, was the first casualty of the new run and tonight the remaining 15 will do battle in the dirty world of dry cleaning – so expect all the dirty laundry to be very publicly aired.

As Sir Alan explained early on:

"The prize? Working for me." It may be time to re-think that application.

YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

BY RUSSELL GRANT



AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19)

BEWARE of saying one thing, but doing another. Your reputation is on the line here. A money-making opportunity could fall into your lap. Dark thoughts could prevent you from having a good time with your neighbours. Brush your fears aside and join the fun.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762



TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21)

TROUBLESOME thoughts could undermine your calm composure if you're not careful. You may discover that they disappear after being exposed to the light. It may be necessary to revise plans you have made. Delays with a legal matter could also crop up.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Taurus** 09067-531753



LEO (Jul 24-Aug 23)

YOU may not have enough knowledge to work independently. Be open to a generous colleague's advice, even if it seems weird or wacky. Their methods will be unconventional, to say the least, but they could bring home the bacon in a very unexpected and unorthodox way.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531756



SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22)

THIS would be a great time to learn a new way of working or relating to people. This process could get long winded and tiresome, but it will be rewarding. Try not to talk down to a colleague who isn't as quick-witted as you. You may not know it now, but you'll need this person's support.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759



PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20)

MONEY could be tight this week, which is really frustrating. You may not be able to afford all the things you have planned. Don't make lame excuses; be truthful. Friends won't judge you, but they will offer help, both emotional and financial. Accept the former and refuse the latter.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763



GEMINI (May 22-Jun 22)

YOU should be expecting to receive a reward or bonus for a job well done. Try to be gracious about this situation. On a practical note you should think long and hard before making any commitments about the future. You may find your views and values are changing.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Gemini** 09067-531754



VIRGO (Aug 24-Sep 23)

THE funding for a project could fall through at the last minute and you may be tempted to abandon it altogether. Look to a lover or child for inspiration, their youthful enthusiasm will give you the courage to go on. If you're single, you could meet someone special.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757



SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21)

WORKING from home would be a great idea. Your sexual side may not get the satisfaction you seek this week, which is frustrating. Resist the temptation to seduce a reluctant lover. By honouring your amour's feelings, you'll pave the way for a more satisfying experience later.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760



ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20)

THIS will be a week of pleasant surprises, particularly where your career is concerned. Don't pass up any opportunity to sit before authority figures. These meetings could lead to some incredible opportunities. If you're thinking of switching industries, follow the impulse.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752



CANCER (Jun 23-Jul 23)

AN angry confrontation with people in power could badly backfire. If you want to keep things on an even keel, you should keep your thoughts to yourself. Fortunately, someone is sympathetic to your plight. Look to this person for support whenever you feel like blowing your top.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755



LIBRA (Sep 24-Oct 23)

YOUR home and family will be a wonderful source of pleasure. You may even be inspired to launch a business from your living room. The ability to control your environment will be a powerful incentive to move this plan forward. The desire to break free is very strong.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758



CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20)

DON'T be too heavy handed with a relative they will respond better to logic than force. A close friend may try to push you to go against your instincts so stick to your guns and stand firm. You need to learn when to fight, when to walk away and when to keep a low profile.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

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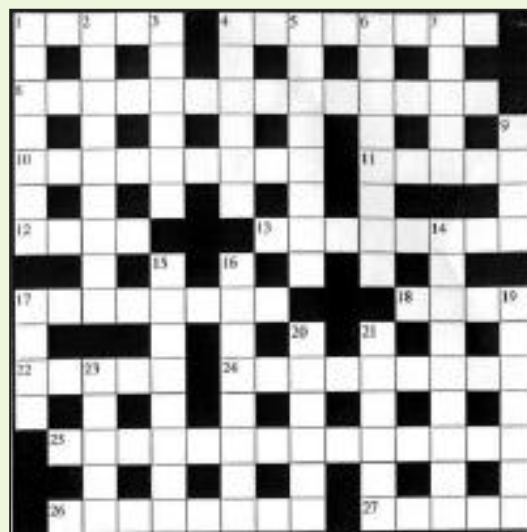
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- 8 Cry when transistor tube disintegrates (5,4,5)
- 10 Imply in sin, you, say, took food (9)
- 11 Some ammo were hidden by grass-cutter (5)
- 12 Bend the cord (4)
- 13 A printer turned turtle (8)
- 17 Went out of one's way (8)
- 18 Sunny smile? (4)
- 22 In Minorca Terry will provide food (5)
- 24 Brave old Penny without any female relatives? (9)
- 25 Doesn't he charge anything for being in armed movement? (7,7)
- 26 Reportedly battled receiving blows at US military reservation (4,4)
- 27 Laura's trouble is to do with ear (5)

DOWN

- 1 Obtain report from mission or from French underwear shortly (7)
- 2 Illusory discovery in horse's home? (5-4)
- 3 Placing it in chant (6)
- 4 This surgeon should know his drill (6)
- 5 Shut up stuffy Edward (8)
- 6 At all times to a greater extent until the end of time (8)
- 7 Spread some of the best rewards (5)
- 9 Small bird in the navy? (4)
- 14 One making introductions now hesitantly (9)
- 15 Food large number leave is nourishing substance (8)
- 16 Give a custodial sentence, expel from university (4,4)
- 17 Underwater bird? (4)
- 19 Fog to the right and left initially or strong wind (7)
- 20 Six posh fellows included - added at the end (6)
- 21 Brand tags I'm replacing (6)
- 23 Trunk with twisted roots (5)

SCRIBBLE HERE



QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 Fetch (5)
- 4 Test-case (anag.) (8)
- 8 By degrees (6,2,6)
- 10 Of tailoring (9)
- 11 Recompense (5)
- 12 Species of lily (4)
- 13 Murderer (8)
- 17 Drew (8)
- 18 Fête (4)
- 22 Rainbow colour (5)
- 24 Recreation (9)
- 25 The very best (5,2,2,5)
- 26 Went in front (8)
- 27 Bingo (5)

DOWN

- 1 beacon (7)
- 2 Interval (9)
- 3 Eight pints (6)
- 4 Taxi-driver (6)
- 5 Altruistic (8)
- 6 Outer (8)
- 7 Spring flower (5)
- 9 Song of praise (4)
- 14 Testament (anag.) (9)
- 15 Maintained for profit (8)
- 16 Required (8)
- 17 Yearn (4)
- 19 Style of 1920s and 1930s (3,4)
- 20 Coiled (6)
- 21 Writing tool (6)
- 23 Blunder (5)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

SUDOKU SOLUTIONS No29

EASY

3	7	9	5	8	2	1	4	6
6	5	8	1	9	4	7	3	2
4	1	2	6	7	3	8	5	9
7	8	5	3	1	6	2	9	4
1	4	3	9	2	8	5	6	7
2	9	6	4	5	7	3	8	1
8	6	7	2	3	9	4	1	5
5	3	4	7	6	1	9	2	8
9	2	1	8	4	5	6	7	3

MEDIUM

4	3	5	9	1	2	8	6	7
6	1	9	8	7	3	4	2	5
2	8	7	4	5	6	9	1	3
7	4	2	3	6	1	5	9	8
5	6	1	7	8	9	3	4	2
3	9	8	5	2	4	6	7	1
8	7	4	1	3	8	2	6	5
1	2	3	6	9	5	7	8	4
8	5	6	2	4	7	1	3	9

HARD

5	9	1	8	4	6	7	2	3
7	4	6	5	3	7	8	9	1
8	2	3	7	9	1	5	4	6
2	7	6	9	1	5	8	3	4
1	5	4	3	6	7	2	8	9
6	3	9	4	2	8	1	5	7
4	6	2	1	8	9	3	7	5
3	1	7	2	5	4	9	6	8
8	8	5	6	7	3	4	1	2

CRYPTIC SOLUTION No29

ACROSS: 8 Highlight 9 Usher
10 Heartland 11 Hindu 12 Taking the field
15 Move 17 Ruler 19 Tyro 21 Orthodox
Church 23 Allow 24 Steamed up 26
Lotus 27 Perspired. DOWN: 1 Divest 2
Cherokee 3 Airliner 4 Shin 5 Push off 6
Chancery 7 Groundhog 13 Telex 14
Immovable 16 Vitality 18 Rehearse 19
Turned in 20 Hogwash 22 Housed 25 Tied

QUICK SOLUTION No30

deco 20 Curled 21 Percil 22 Error
Economic 16 Demanded 17 Sigh 19 Art
External 7 Tullip 9 Hymn 14 Statement 15
Interlude 3 Gallon 4 Cable 5 Selfless 6
Preceded 27 Lotto. DOWN: 1 Belisha 2
Amusement 17 Sketched 18 Gala 22 Green 24
Little 10 Satchel 11 Repay 12 Arum 13
ACROSS: 1 Bring 4 Cassette 8 Little by

Answers to all of this week's **timeout** quizzes can be found on our website

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birthsdeathsmarriages



TO PUBLISH YOUR ANNOUNCEMENT: EMAIL US @:appointments@kosmedia.co.uk

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BIRTHS

BEECHER

Harry James born on 14th March 2008, weighing 7lb 10oz. Son to James and Sarah and brother to Jack of Headcorn.

BIESECK

MORAES
Eden and Eliane of Canterbury are very proud and happy to announce the birth of their daughter, Barbara, on 3rd March 2008.

BISHOP

Tanya and Stephen of Margate are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful baby daughter Lacey Jade, born on 8th March 2008 at QEQM. Sister to Josh.

BOOKER

Michael and Johanna Booker of Cobham are delighted to announce the birth of their son Toby Jacob born on 9th March 2008 weighing 6lb 12oz. Brother to Annabel.

CHURCH

Mason Alexander was born to proud parents Lee and Crystal on 24th February 2008 weighing 7lb 8oz a brother for Jodi.

CLARK

Emily Sophia born on 6th March 2008, weighing 7lb 2oz. Daughter to Jolanta and James Clark, sister to Thomas.

DAVIS

David and Clare of Whitstable are proud to announce the birth of their son, Frederick James, on 9th March 2008. Another West Bromwich Albion fan for Kent.

ELY-BEER

Liz and Ja celebrate the birth of their twin daughters Delcie and Beau Ely-Beer born on 13th March 2008.

EMMETT

Niamh Louisa Emmett born on 12th March 2008, weighing 5lb 9oz. Daughter to Karen Huxster and Martin Emmett of Maidstone.

GANNON

Chris and Helen of Whitstable are delighted to announce the birth of their son, George Edward Rhys Gannon, on 25th February 2008.

GERETY

Skye Elizabeth born on 7th March 2008, weighing 7lb 2oz. Daughter to Susannah and Kevin and Sister to Finn Gerety.

GLENIE

Sarah and Jason Glenie of Staplehurst celebrate the birth of their daughter Ella Charlotte Glenie on 13th February 2008.

GOACHER

Tim and Sharon of Tunbridge Wells are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter Valerie Marjorie Ann on 12th March 2008 weighing 7lb, a little sister for Sabrina.

HARBER

Kathleen Sarah Phoebe born on 14th February 2008 at the William Harvey Hospital Ashford, weighing 5lb 8oz. Daughter to George and Priscilla of Headcorn. Sister for Maryellen, George and Lenamarie. Named after special Auntie Kathy.

HARMAN

Tony and Kate are proud to announce the arrival of Shaun Jack Oliver, a brother to Nathan, on the 14th March 2008, weighing 7lb 4oz.

HARRIS

Glen and Vicky of Margate celebrate the birth of their beautiful daughter Molly Emma-Louise on 14th March 2008. You are the miracle who we will love and treasure forever.

HOGBIN

To Gary and Lisa of Herne Bay a beautiful third daughter, Mia Louise Hogbin, born on 15th March 2008 at Kent and Canterbury Hospital. A new sister for Chloe and Ellie.

ILLINGWORTH

Rowan Marc Illingworth born 9:45pm on Tuesday 11th March 2008 at home in East Farleigh, weighing 7lb 10oz, all the family well and happy.

KENNARD

Paul and Olena of Oare are delighted and proud to announce the birth of their second son, Andrew, born on 17th March 2008. A new baby brother for Anthony.

KIRKHAM

LANGRIDGE
Scarlett Ruby Lily born on 7th March 2008 weighing 5lb 15oz. Daughter to Lorraine and Ryan, sister to Ethan and Drew. You are the miracle who we will love and cherish forever.

LEDGER

Rob and Sam of Whitstable are absolutely delighted to announce the safe arrival of their precious daughter, Sophie Violet, on 19th March 2008.

LOVEJOY

Chloe May born on 14th March 2008 weighing 7lb 2oz. Daughter to Gemma and Edward Lovejoy of Woodchurch.

MACKINS

Leah and Paul are very pleased to announce the arrival of Anya on 11th March 2008. Little sister to Che and Alfie.

McSHANE

Jaimie and Louisa of Whitstable are delighted to announce the birth of their second daughter, Scarlett Alexi, who was born very suddenly on the way to the Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother Hospital on 11th March 2008. A new baby sister for Lennie, Frazer and Honey.

NEEDHAM

Leighton and Chloe of Canterbury are absolutely delighted to announce the safe arrival of their twins, a daughter Bindi-Grace and a son Brodie-Leslie, they were born on 15th March 2008. A new baby brother and sister for Ashley, Kelsey and Sharna.

NEWELL

Matt Newell and Laura Thompson of Bearsted would like to announce the birth of their daughter Chloe Linda Newell, born on 16th March 2008. Welcome to the world.

NORCOTT

Peter Robert Norcott of Albany Motors of Broadstairs passed away on 18th March at QEQM. Funeral takes place at Thanet Crematorium Margate on Monday 31st March at 11:20am. All friends are welcome.

PHULL

Jaswinder and Jotan Phull are delighted to announce the birth of their first grandchild Kamran Singh Phull. He was born at 1.03pm on the 5th March 2008 and weighed 6lb 11oz.

ROSE

Harvey and Michelle of Oare are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter, Lucy Susan, on 6th March 2008.

SLATTERY

Camilla and Martin are proud to announce the birth of their son Markus Anders on 19th March 2008 at Pembury Hospital weighing 9lb 13oz. We love you and treasure every moment x.

STEPHENSON

Aaron Stephenson and Kelly Gurr are delighted to announce the birth of their son, Oliver Ronald Stephenson, on 19th March 2008.

SULLIVAN

Nicola and Michael of Ramsgate are delighted to announce the birth of their son Lowan Michael, born on 8th March 2008 at QEQM.

TAYLOR-CHRISTIAN

Gemma is proud to announce the safe arrival of Harrison born on 7th March 2008 weighing 8lb 11oz.

TURNER

Paul and Louise Turner of Headcorn celebrate the birth of their daughter Eve Joelle Turner born on 29th February 2008, weighing 9lb.

DEATHS

ADDY

Anthony Albert of Ashford died peacefully on 23rd March. Funeral service at Charing Crematorium at 3.20pm on 4th April 2008. Will be fondly remembered by his family and friends.

ALSTON

Olive Muriel Alston of Seasalter passed away peacefully at the Whitstable and Tankerton Hospital on 20th March 2008. Funeral enquiries to C W Lyons of Whitstable.

BYRNE

Roy Byrne died peacefully on 17th March 2008. Funeral service at Barham Crematorium at Noon on 31st March. Sadly missed by family and friends.

COCKELL

Margaret Harriet Cockell of Sittingbourne died peacefully on 19th March 2008 at Court Regis Care Home, Milton Regis aged 97 years. Survived by her three children Bryan, Patricia and Marlene and sister Edith. Funeral enquiries to R High and Son of Sittingbourne. Family flowers only but if desired donations to Court Regis Care Home.

EASTWAY

Jean Eastway of Lenham passed away peacefully on 20th March 2008. Enquiries to A W Court Funeral Directors, Grafty Green 01622 850840.

GRIER

Cynthia Kathleen of Hythe, passed away in the William Harvey Hospital on 12th March 2008, aged 82. Funeral at Saltwood Church 1.45pm Tuesday 8th April. Cremation 2.45 at Hawkinge.

HARLEY

Madeline Harley died peacefully on 9th March 2008, aged 49. Funeral service at Medway Crematorium at 2:45 on 1st April.

HYDER

John Frank Hyder of Canterbury passed away peacefully at his home on 14th March 2008. Beloved husband of Sheila and father to Graham, grandad to Joanne. The funeral was held on March 27th at Barham.

JENNER

John William Jenner of Herne Bay passed away suddenly but peacefully, in his sleep, on 20th March 2008. Sadly missed by Pat, David and Andrew. The funeral is to be held on Friday 4th April at 2.40 at Thanet Crematorium.

JONES

Harold Jones of Herne Bay passed away peacefully after a short illness on 23rd March 2008. Sadly missed by his son David and family. The funeral is to be held on 4th April at 1.20pm at Barham Crematorium. Flowers to Herne Bay Funeral Services, Sea Street, Herne Bay or donations to the Pilgrims Hospice, Canterbury.

LEESON

Joan Leeson of Maidstone passed away on 12th March 2008. To live in the hearts of those left behind is to live forever.

LEWIS

Peter Frank of Sissinghurst died suddenly on 18th March 2008. Much loved husband of Vivienne, devoted father to Heather and Brian. Funeral Service at St. Laurence Church Hawkhurst on Thursday 3rd April at 2.15p.m. Family flowers, donations in his memory can be made to the British Heart Foundation c/o C. Waterhouse Burwash.

MAIRS

James McClements, aged 51, of Hamstreet died peacefully on 16th March 2008 after a long illness. Will be sadly missed by his wife Jane, and sons Callum and Ryan, and all his family and friends.

McCAULEY

Queenie Eileen McCauley passed away on 15th March 2008 after a long illness. Enquiries to Sears Funeral Services Maidstone.

SHAW

Robert Harry Shaw passed away on 12th March 2008, aged 76.

WHITE

Thomas White of Herne Bay passed away suddenly at home on 17th March 2008. Beloved husband of Dilys and loving father to

Glenn and Jill, much loved grandad to Michael, Anne-Marie, Laura, Danny and Andraya. He will be very sadly missed by all who knew him. The funeral took place on Friday 28th March at Barham Crematorium.

WILKINSON

William Frederick Wilkinson of Deal passed away suddenly, at his home, on 18th March 2008. Greatly missed by his family and friends. The funeral was held on 28th March at Barham Crematorium.

YOUNG

Yvonne de Plaxtol died peacefully at home on 21st March 2008. Much loved wife, mother, granny and friend. Funeral at Plaxtol Church on Friday 4th April 2008 at 12.30pm. Enquiries to Abbey Funeral Services 01732 360328

IN MEMORIAM

HOWKER

Ian Gerard Howker, died suddenly on the 9th March 2008. Jean, Nathan and Cheryl would like to thank relatives, friends and neighbours who attended Ian's service of remembrance at Bybrook Cemetery and thank them for their donations to charity. Special thanks to Angela. Ian will be sadly missed and always remembered.

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PROPERTY NEWS

New homes are the greener option

RECYCLING is the word on everyone's lips, except, it seems, in new houses, where builders insist buying a new property can be a better investment than purchasing and renovating an older building.

A recent survey by Redrow Homes, which builds new houses, also uncovered the fact that newer homes tend to be more environmentally friendly, especially heating efficiency.

The study indicated that the hidden costs of refurbishing an old house could leave buyers up to £20,000 out of pocket when it comes to paying off unforeseen improvements which are necessary for it to be habitable.

Another finding was that buying an older home can prove more problematic and involve more hassle than a new property. This is because of such things as surveyors' reports, the history of a particular building and the need to bring it up to what is currently seen as environmentally acceptable levels.

The survey comes at a time when Conservative leader David Cameron has backed moves to ensure all property developers ensure new homes are built to eco-friendly specifications.

South East stung with Stamp Duty

THE average stamp duty bill for newly-built property buyers in Kent is five times higher than that in the north of the UK.

The latest SmartNewHomes.com property price index, which analyses the current average price of a new home, studied data from across Britain to come up with its findings.

The South East came substantially ahead when it came to stamp duty.

"New home buyers in the South East are being penalised for living in the most expensive parts of the UK," said David Bexon, managing director of SmartNewHomes.

"Recent figures have highlighted that the stamp duty bill for the average first-time buyer in the UK in 2007 was £1,751, 82 per cent more than that paid in 2002."

The research also finds the average first-time buyer in the South East is now liable to pay £8,000 in stamp duty.

This, coupled with all other associated home-buying costs, is making property unattainable for vulnerable groups, it concluded.



INFRASTRUCTURE: Kent's improved rail and road links, like the international station at Ebbsfleet, look set to keep the county housing market buoyant

Kent set to ride out property price slump

■ BY NICK AMES

A PREDICTION that house prices could fall by a fifth in parts of the UK should leave Kent largely unaffected.

Thanks to the county's location and improved road and rail links, Kent looks set to ride out the worst of any slump in property prices.

The gloomy forecast into the future of the housing market was issued by one of the world's leading financial institutions.

A senior economist at investment bank Morgan Stanley is predicting that UK house prices could fall by up to 20 per cent over the next two years.

Professor David Miles based his forecast on figures provided by brokers Tradition Group and admitted it was a worst-case scenario, describing the forecast as "at the pessimistic end of the spectrum".

However, he does not view such a fall as catastrophic because there will be "as many

gainers as losers". He believes the winners will be first-time buyers and those on lower salaries who will finally be able to afford to buy.

The average UK house price currently stands at about £200,000, but could fall to £160,000 by the end of 2009 if Professor Miles is correct.

At the beginning of the year, the Financial Services Authority warned that up to one million homeowners could be at risk of mortgage arrears and ultimately repossession.

But Kent should suffer less than the rest of the UK as improvements in infrastructure and the attractive prospect of living in the county cushion the possible fall.

The high-speed rail link should also prove a factor as parts of the county become far more accessible from the City of London than

traditional high-property value areas such as Richmond and Dulwich Village.

The Halifax reported the Medway towns were likely to record significant house price increases as demand was boosted by the planned opening of high-speed commuter services from central London to north and east Kent in late 2009.

Dartford and the surrounding area will also see a boost to its property market as a result of the recent opening of Ebbsfleet International railway station.

From December 2009, it will also have high-speed domestic services, with a 15-minute journey time to St Pancras.

It concluded: "Kent generally is likely to outperform the South East average, partly due to infrastructure improvements."

"Seaside towns in the county are also relatively affordable, which will tend to stimulate demand from the growing number of people looking to live near the coast."

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- End Of Terrace House • Two Bedrooms • Lounge • Kitchen/Breakfast Room

ref: 527264253

£154,995 FAVERSHAM (01795 536955)
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ref: 527249487

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- Popular Apples Estate • Three Bedroom • Semi Detached House • Lounge With Spiral Staircase

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- Terraced Modern House • Two Bedrooms • Lounge • Kitchen Dining Room

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**WILLEMENT ROAD**

- Semi Detached House • Three Bedrooms • Lounge & Dining Area • Kitchen

ref: 527241438

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FAVERSHAM

**WOODLANDS**

- Semi Detached House • Four Bedrooms • En-Suite To Master Bedroom • Lounge

ref: 527256904

£269,995 FAVERSHAM (01795 536955)
IWADE

**CREMER PLACE**

- Semi Detached House • Two Bedrooms • Lounge • Kitchen

ref: 527249662

£175,000 FAVERSHAM (01795 536955)
IWADE

**FALLOWFIELD**

- First Floor Apartment • Two Bedrooms • Lounge • Kitchen / Dining Room

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SITTINGBOURNE

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WARDEN

**BARLER PLACE**

- Three Bedrooms • Two Reception Rooms • Semi Detached House • Garden To Rear

ref: 527293792

£137,500 SHEERNESS (01795 668373)
MINSTER ON SEA

**SCRAPSGATE ROAD**

- Four Bedrooms • Semi Detached House • Lounge / Dining Room • Off Street Parking And Garage

ref: 527284731

£179,995 SHEERNESS (01795 668373)
MINSTER ON SEA

**SANSPAREIL AVENUE**

- Three Bedrooms • Detached Bungalow • Off Street Parking • Detached Garage

ref: 527284120

£204,995 SHEERNESS (01795 668373)
MINSTER ON SEA

**WINDSOR GARDENS**

- Two Bedrooms • Semi Detached House • Open Plan Lounge / Dining Room • Conservatory

ref: 527275902

£152,500 SHEERNESS (01795 668373)
LEYSDOWN-ON-SEA

**HIGH STREET**

- Edwardian Style End Of Terrace • Six Separate Bedrooms • Three Reception Rooms • Modern Fitted Kitchen

ref: 527268187

£218,500 SHEERNESS (01795 668373)
MINSTER ON SEA

**SEASALTER CLOSE**

- Mid Terrace Family Home • Three Separate Bedrooms • Lounge • Modern Kitchen/Diner

ref: 527260710

£138,000 SHEERNESS (01795 668373)
WARDEN

**PORTER CLOSE**

- Extended End Terrace House • Five Separate Bedrooms • Lounge • Fitted Kitchen/Dining Room

ref: 527250770

£219,500 SHEERNESS (01795 668373)
MINSTER ON SEA

**SHURLAND AVENUE**

- Detached Bungalow • Three Bedrooms • No Chain • Lounge

ref: 527245340

£230,000 SHEERNESS (01795 668373)
MINSTER ON SEA

**KENT AVENUE**

- Modern Detached Family Home • Four Separate Bedrooms • Lounge With Cathedral Ceiling • Modern Kitchen/Breakfast Room

ref: 527239731

£330,000 SHEERNESS (01795 668373)
MINSTER ON SEA

**WING ROAD**

- Detached 5 Bedroom Family Home • Lounge/Dining Room • Kitchen/Breakfast Room • 4-5 Separate Bedrooms

ref: 527237049

£410,000 SHEERNESS (01795 668373)
MINSTER ON SEA

**QUEENBOROUGH ROAD**

- Detached Family Home • Four Bedroom & Study • Garage & Driveway • Fitted Kitchen/Breakfast Room

ref: 527235890

£205,000 SHEERNESS (01795 668373)
MINSTER ON SEA

**Canterbury**

3 St Margaret's Street

01227 454925

FAVERSHAM

11a Market Place

01795 536955

SITTINGBOURNE

28 West Street

01795 429771

Herne Bay

118 High Street

01227 367161

Whitstable

21 Oxford Street

01227 770490

Sheerness

2 Bank Street

01795 668373

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EDDINGTON, HERNE BAY £599,995

Imposing detached double-fronted Character property standing on a good size plot in an unmade road just off the main Canterbury Road on the southern side of town. Features gas central heating, 6 bedrooms and 3 reception rooms. This property has an added bonus of a purpose built snooker room/multiple use room.



EAST CLIFF, HERNE BAY £435,000

Spacious modern detached 5 bedroom house located in a popular residential area within easy walking distance of 'bus route to town centre and Village of Beltinge. Features gas central heating and double glazing.



CENTRAL, HERNE BAY £149,500

1 bedroom spacious leasehold Ground Floor Flat located in a convenient east central position, handy for local shops and on bus route to town centre and sea front. Features gas central heating, part double glazing and good size rear garden. Freehold Title available.



WEST CLIFF, HERNE BAY £250,000

This three bedroom detached bungalow is situated on the popular west side of Herne Bay. There is a west facing patio with views towards Hampton Bay. The property has gas central heating, UPVC soffits and guttering and is mainly UPVC double glazed.

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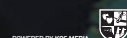
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Guide price £570,000

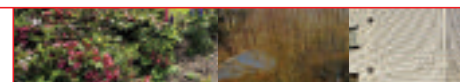


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WOMEN'S SPOTLIGHT

TAKE ME OUT

Fun, flirtatious, nearly 30, bored of being single, seeking someone to take me out and show me a good time, petite with dark hair. Box 895349

BOOOYAKASH!

Single mum of two, 29, bubbly, bright, 5ft6, brown hair, green eyes, size 14 and curly, seeking tall, muscular, outgoing guy for socialising and more. Box 438300

ARE YOU MY RIGHT?

Single mum, 30, 5ft2, short brown hair, petite, loves pubs, clubs, eating out, nights in, seeking Mr Right for friendship, maybe more. Box 437895

ALL FOR THE TAKING

Love scouse female, 29, 5ft1, brown hair blue eyes, fantastic SOH, after some fun and laughs, so if that's you let me know. Box 438364

LADY MADONNA

Single mum of 2, 31, great SOH, works full time, seeking male with GSOH, fun-loving and romantic, for possible relationship. Box 438417

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www.people2people.co.uk/kos.asp

UNDER THE BOARDWALK

Black female, 32, 5ft6, likes cooking, reading, going out, WLM a nice man 34-50, down-to-earth and to be with, to find out more. Box 438585

ALL IN GOOD TIME

Tall, black, pretty female, 31, new to the Chatham area, loves watching football, shopping, travel, seeking tall, white, long, dark hair 34-47 for LTR. Box 437778

NOT PICKY!

Upbeat girl, 31, bored silly and just looking for friends to go out and have a laugh with, nothing else. Preferably students in the Canterbury. Box 895185

LOVELY BUBBLY

Hi I'm Cheryl, 31, 5ft3, blonde, size 10, have 2 girls, I like walking, the gym and socialising, seeking a similar male for potential partnership. Box 437744

SEARCHING MR RIGHT

Love, attractive female, 32, 5'5", looking for a meet that someone special to share life, laughter and love. Box 429124

LOVE IS ALL YOU NEED

Caring, loving, affectionate female, 30, 5'2", blonde, likes walking, horse riding, animals, seeks affectionate male, 30-40, for lasting, loving relationship. Box 894013

CANTERBURY TALE

Single mum of 2, 32, would like to meet someone kind, caring and considerate, on nights in/out and cinema. Box 406870

RAMSGATE REVIVAL

51st, single, outgoing female, 31, honest, lively, going out and stay in with good company, drive etc. WLM similar male, for friendship and more. Box 927816

NO BAGGAGE, SO LET'S PACK!

Hi I'm 35, from Canterbury, non-worker as have heart problems, looking to meet someone who's kind, honest, loving and affectionate for romantic times. Box 438785

HOPING FOR MORE

32yr old kind, warm female, 5'6", cuddly but, love walking my dog, cosy nights in, evenings out, WLM tall, honest, trustworthy male for friendship. Box 430593

R U THE 1?

Outgoing, funny, young-looking female, 34, 5ft3, brown hair/eyes, Tonbridge. Seeks caring, loyal male for friendship, leading to more. Box 433107

ROMANCE IS ALIVE

Divorced, lively mum, 35, GSOH, I enjoy time with my family/friends, cinema, good food, beach walks, seeks male for honest, love, romance. Box 913593

THE GENTLE LADY

Easygoing female with GSOH, 36, enjoys many things - going out, staying in, life, very loving and caring, 5'5", cutely built, good personality, seeking a gentle, considerate man. Box 437191

NICE SMILE???

Single 36yr old female, like most things in life, very loving and caring, 5'5", cutely built, good personality, seeking a gentle, considerate man. Box 431266

WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM LIFE?

39 year old female, divorced with no children, brunettes, loves travel, music, cinema, nice meals, theatre, career, salsa, seeking someone for dates and more. Rainbow Box 434574

SECOND THAT EMOTION

I'm an attractive, dark-haired female, 36, who enjoys cinema, coffees, theatre and socialising, seeking a fun, caring, considerate, romantic guy, for a chat and more. Box 436807

NICE PERSONALITY

Large, bubbly lady, 37, 5'8", like country walks, seaside, bird watching, all good, looking for that special male for good times. Box 438362

PRETTY WOMAN WANTS HER RICH GUY

Hi I'm 37, 5ft8, mousey long hair, grey eyes, N.S., large bubbly lady, love pubs, country walks, bird-watching, seeking kind, tactful, N.S. gent, possibly romantic. Box 438674

THE WIT TO WOO!

Kent female, 39, 5'7", dark eyes, GSOH, no lies, likes cosy nights in, socialising, country pubs, cinema, seeks tall, caring male, for friendship & more. Box 153892

YOU'LL SMILE IF YOU DIAL

Bubbly 40yr old female, enjoys beaches, pubs, clubs, WLM a like-minded, caring male to share fun times with. Box 437639

ROUND TWO

41yr old female, separated with 3 children, medium build, dark hair, seeking a male to share life with again who enjoys socialising, cinema, music and holidays! Box 898989

ACTIVE ANGEL

Hi, I'm a fun-loving woman early 40, 5'1", enjoys going out and cooking to walking, looking for a man for happiness. Box 894398

JOIN ME BABY

Fun-loving, vivacious woman, 41, 5ft1, enjoys dining out, walking, cinema, looking for a confident man with GSOH, N.S. for friendship & maybe more. Box 898989

LOVE CANNOT BE BOUGHT

Happy, fit, youthful 48yr old single mum, OHAC, very good sense of humour. Likes all the normal social things. Very honest. Seeking sincere, stable, solvent man. Box 895929

READY TO START AGAIN

Hi, I'm Sue, 48, 5'2", dark hair/eyes, young-looking, slim, attractive female, love music, restaurants, music, travel, seeks sincere and loving male between 48-55 for friendship. Box 909974

ALL THAT I NEED

Young-looking, slim, attractive female, 48, fun-loving & outgoing, N.S., GSOH, love music, holidays, going out & staying in, seeks similar man, 40-50, Aylesford. Box 428833

BRIGHTON UP MY HILLS

Loving and loyal 49yr old female, GSOH, enjoys walking, countryside, cinema, the pub, restaurants, music, travel, seeks sincere and loving male between 48-55 for friendship. Box 909974

DIG DEEPER

Genuine, friendly female, 49, likes walks, gardening, nights in/out, seeking genuine, friendly male, 45-55, Dover Box 435441

THE ONE!

Young-at-heart female, 48, medium build, 5ft2, dark hair, blue eyes, GSOH, very active, likes clubs and dining out, seeks someone with similar interests. Box 435098

IT'S IN THE AIR

Lovely female, 49, divorced, 5ft, shaggy-length blonde hair, green eyes, size 16, likes dining out, staying in, walks in the country, seeking LTR with similar male. Box 437729

SIMILAR TASTES

New to this, I'm a 38yr old woman, and I enjoy walks, theatre, meals out, and WLM genuine man for company. Box 437744

NEED A DATE FOR A WEDDING!

Single female, 49, happy with my life, divorced, interested in meeting someone for a date and who knows what might happen? Box 438673

ROCK AROUND THE CLOCK

Loving, lively, cuddly blonde woman, 50, 5'4, loves rock music, walking & films, WLM easygoing male for uncomplicated relationship & good times. Box 894299

WHITSTABLE WONDERLAND

Hi I'm Vette, 50, blonde, 5'11, blonde hair/blue eyes, size 12, 5'2", likes cinema, meals and drinks out, reading, walks, looking for male, 40-60, for relationship. Box 429161

PUTTER IN YOUR HANDS!

Sporty female, 50, Hastings-based, 5'8", blonde/blue, enjoys golf, walking, socialising, eating in/out, WLM fun-loving, kind, sporty male, 48-60, 5'10", to share life. Box 165367

BIG HEART

New to the area, I'm female, 50, with 2 kids, I'm a 5'8", 5'7", seeking N.S. single, outgoing guy who likes meals out, travel, nights in, cinema. Box 437028

ON A PLATE

Caring, honest 46yr old female, 5'2", slim build, red head, likes cinema, theatre, walking, WLM male for fun and friendship. Box 895928

MADE TO LOVE YOU

Baby blue-eyed female, 46, long blonde hair, 5'3, medium build, not bad looking! like going to clubs, dinners, cinema, music, seeking nice gent for possible relationship. Box 438427

BOWL A MAIDSTONE OVER!

Kind, loving female, 44, blonde, 5'4", medium/cuddly build, likes reading, live music, countryside, walks, seeks similar, adventurous male for happy times together. Kent. Box 805846

JOIN OUR TEAM

Loving and honest, common-speak but a nice person 5 children, 7 grandchildren, seeking honest female for companionship and love. Box 437840

LOVE CANNOT BE BOUGHT

Happy, fit, youthful 48yr old single mum, OHAC, very good sense of humour. Likes all the normal social things. Very honest. Seeking sincere, stable, solvent man. Box 895929

ON THE WINGS OF LOVE

Tall, outgoing lady, 43, large build, newly settled in Kent, needs to spread her wings and meet a nice chap! Let's chat! Box 895908

YOUNG & YUMMY

Mum of two, 42, 5ft4, blonde hair, 37-45, young-looking, slim, attractive female, with similar interests for love. Box 438349

HAPPY NATURE

42yr old outgoing female, 5'4", brown hair, green eyes, medium build, loves country walks, bird-watching, seeking kind, tactful, N.S. gent, possibly romantic. Box 438674

STRIKE ME

42, loving, slim, down-to-earth, normal! love walking, cinema, clubs, seeking a male 40-55 for friendship and more. Box 438163

FOREVER YOURS

I'm Caroline, 42, single mum, likes having fun, eating out, wine bars, swimming, looking for someone for something meaningful. Box 430952

HEY BOYS

Attractive female, 43, 5ft3, long black hair, blue eyes, long legs, divorced, 3 teenage children, likes meals, cooking! seeks a nice male. Box 438274

ATTRACTIVE BRUNETTE

Fun-loving, affectionate brunette, 43, size 12, N.S., separated amicably with 2 lovely kids, enjoys keeping fit. Seeks good-looking, slim, fit, romantic male. Box 436872

CURL UP AND DYE

45yr young female, tall, blonde, a hairdresser, just looking for the right man to share life with and let's learn more! Box 437381

IT'S WHAT YOU MAKE OF IT!

44yr old female, blonde hair, 5ft5, slim, easygoing, enjoys many things in life, looking for someone similar out there to enjoy life with! Box 436810

READ ALL ABOUT IT

Petite, sincere woman, 44, wavy blonde hair, blue eyes, size 10, loves beach walks, animals, DIY, swimming, travelling, WLM N.S. man to share things with. Box 429682

NICE AND LOVING

44yr old female, 5'7", brown hair, slim build, 5'4", enjoys pubs, enjoys clubs, enjoys going out, genuine, honest guy. Maidstone Box 413448

NO GAME PLAYERS!

Female, 46, seeks honest, warm, sincere, intelligent, and good-looking male with no hang-ups about kids for friendship and hoping for more. Box 158955

DONT PASS ME BY

Friendlly, bubbly, fun-loving woman, 45, 5'4", GSOH, enjoys socialising, pubs, music, eating in/out, own home/car, smoker, looking for honest man 44-55, who enjoys life. Box 823441

READ ME!

Lovely single mum, 38, 5ft4, blonde, slim, loves socialising, good fun and chatty, WLM similar male for fun and friendship, maybe leading to LTR. Box 927889

GET IT TOGETHER

Kind, caring, spiritual lady, 39, 5'4", average build, happy-puppy dog eyes, brown hair, looking for genuine, honest guy. N.S. friendship first. Box 899694

YOUNG-AT-HEART

Attractive 38yr old female, dark brown hair, blue eyes, curly physique, likes days out, music, concerts, cinema, walking, cycling, seeks loving, fun male, for friendship/relationship. Box 901895

ON MANDY

Mandy, 38, lovely brunette, petite & slim, very tactile & bubbly, professional mum, WLM honest, romantic N.S. man. Box 432692

THE WONDER OF YOU

38yr old single mum, slim, long hair, love rock music, concerts, bikes, likes mixers, looking for nice man to share quality time together and cuddles. Box 437940

NEVER SAY NEVER

Decent 39yr old female, medium build, fair hair, 5'6", likes cinema, eating & having fun, seeks like-minded male, 36-40, for friendship first. Box 739664

I DREAM OF DOMESTICITY!

Attractive, homely, caring 53yr old lady, 5'2", slim build, GSOH, good conversationalist, looking for special person to share life's ups and downs with. Faversham. Box 408928

NOT ASKING FOR MUCH

Fun loving, bubbly, tactile lady, 50s, enjoys the good life, holidays and cosy nights in, I'm voluptuous & looking for a real man. Box 903550

FRIENDS FIRST

Sincere female, 57, caring, separated, I enjoy nights in/out, reading, watching, various activities, just prepared for a friend and the sea from there. Box 437420

LIKES THE NICE THINGS IN LIFE

Divorced female, 58, 5ft4, own home, great job and friends, likes to keep fit, hobbies include shopping, cooking, dining out, theatre/cinema, holidays, seeks friendship and more. Box 434901

THE CAT THAT GETS THE CREAM

Hi I'm Jackie, 58, 5ft6, blue eyes, fun-loving, down-to-earth and considerate, love horses, seeking male 58-65 who loves music and animals to be my soul-mate. Box 436328

PUT SPARK INTO LIFE

Lovely, contented solo lady, 59, N.S., living in the country near Hythe, seeks gentleman of similar disposition and means. Box 897822

PLANT THE SEEDS

Clean, intelligent, divorced, attractive lady, 59, slim & active; enjoys travel, walking, holidays, sport, gardening. WLM sincere, intelligent gentleman in-friendship, maybe more. Box 910138

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THE FUTURE LOOKS BRIGHT

Widowed woman, 61, no lies, positive outlook, kind nature with GSOH, like the usual things and would like to find a male counterpart. Box 431210

KEEPER DANCING

Scrumptious 61, looking for a LTR, friendship first, any age considered. Interests: dancing walking, socialising, countryside. Box 432446

DONT PASS ME BY

Young 61 year old, 5ft3, medium build, brown hair/eyes, very happy-go-lucky, blonde hair, dark eyes, eating in/out, I'm very adaptable, looking for a LTR. Maidstone Box 434244

MAKE THE MOST OF NOW

Widowed female, 62, WLM trustworthy, honest caring guy 62-65 to share the simple life, not fussed if you smoke, drink etc. Let's talk. Box 438401

LET'S TAKE THE FISH

Sincere female, 63, loves cosy nights in/out, cinema, holidays; seeking sincere, honest male 60-65, to enjoy life, perhaps romance with. Box 438888

LOVE ME, LOVE MY DOG

Love, intelligent, caring female, 62, young looking/active, likes walks, music, cooking, seeking similar, caring, uncomplicated male, N.S. perhaps a dog owner, for friendship first. Box 434345

SPLASH OF COLOUR

Happy, friendly retired lady, 70, 5'2", short silver hair, cheerful optimistic nature, likes meeting people, computing, reading, travel, seeks N.S. happy male with GSOH. Box 895872

Women seeking women

I WANNA BE WITH YOU

39, slim, female, 5ft6, 37, petite, professional, thoughtful, witty, enjoys socialising, travel, dancing, seeks similar, genuine female, for friendship/relationship. Rochester. Box 411186

MOTORS NEWS



Aldo Alfa partnership works for Northgate

CELEBRITY chef Aldo Zilli marked the official re-opening of Northgate Alfa, Canterbury, with a trademark ravioli dish for more than 100 Alfa Romeo fans.

Aldo, pictured here with Northgate MD Peter Hinkins (left), is a lifelong Alfa fan and currently drives an Alfa Spider.

Mr Hinkins said: "We wanted to do something special for the official opening of our Alfa Romeo dealership, and having Aldo Zilli here has been a wonderful experience. He produced a beautiful meal, really entertained our guests and helped open our showroom in style."

Work at Northgate has increased showroom space from four to seven cars as well as boosting outside display and parking.



Volvo R-Design to lift C30 sales with extra kit

VOLVO has gifted nearly £2,000 worth of extra kit to would-be C30 Coupe buyers by making the 1.6 R-Design Sport its new entry model, priced at £14,995 – just £250 more than the 1.6 S that used to open the range.

R-Design also becomes the junior spec across all engine options and brings a striking body kit, rear spoiler and distinctive alloys plus eye-catching interior.

Volvo is offering three years' zero per cent finance with a 30 per cent minimum deposit and 12 months' free insurance too.



Is this the ultimate green driving machine?

BMW's 118d has been judged 'World Green Car of the Year'.

The three and five-door BMW 118d can return 62.8mpg on the combined cycle with CO2 emissions of just 119g/km, placing it in Band B for Vehicle Excise Duty – £35 a year.

It achieves this through standard 1-Series 'Efficient Dynamics' technology – Brake Energy Regeneration, Auto Start-Stop and Electric Power Steering – measures that may be less spectacular than hybrid-electric powerplants, but pointers to greener cars across the motor industry.



Picture: GM Corp

NEW AND IMPROVED: The latest Corsa is sure to impress all kinds of buyer, be they young and trendy or looking for a more practical family car

Bigger 'supersize me' appeal of latest Corsa

ROAD TEST VAUXHALL CORSA

BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

appeal, there is also an MP3 audio connection on most models.

Leg, shoulder and headroom has increased and Vauxhall claims the cabin is one of the quietest in its class, with reduced NVH (noise, vibration and harshness). Having driven several versions now, I can't argue with that and the car handles and rides in a much tidier fashion than of old too – there is even a cracking little VXR 'pocket rocket' model.

As more of us downsize in search of greener motoring or greater convenience, the new Corsa also falls into what I call the 'supersize-me-mini' segment, typified by the latest Renault Clio, Fiat Punto and Peugeot 207.

These bigger superminis deliver greater crash protection and retain some big car comforts for owners seeking to reduce both their physical and carbon footprint on the roads.

The 1.4 Club is the best seller – Club is the mid-range trim above Expression and Life, while the 1.4i petrol engine delivers a balance of economy, power and refinement.

But it is the SXi tested here that cuts a dash with its sporty looks and smart alloys as standard.



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Official government fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and Urban/Extra Urban/Combined and CO2 emissions (g/km) for Vauxhall Range are as follows: **Lowest Corsa 1.0 Eco 3dr 6.3/3.9/4.8/ CO2 115, Highest Monaro VXR 21.9/10.3/14.5/ CO2 384.** Vehicle shown for illustration purposes only. These offers supersede all previously advertised offers. Prices correct at time of going to press. Offers are subject to availability. Licensed credit brokers, written details available on request, finance is subject to status. E&OE.

CORSA From £4995

0545 Corsa 1.0 12v Energy 3dr Silver Lightning	£4,995.00
0404 Corsa 1.2 16v design 5dr Star Silver 16000miles	£5,295.00
0656 Corsa 1.2 16v Sxi + 3dr Sapphire Black 20000miles	£6,995.00

NEW CORSA From £7995

0656 New Corsa 1.2 16v Sxi A/c 3dr Flame Red 3400miles	£7,995.00
0707 New Corsa 1.3Cdti Sxi 3dr Flame Red	£9,495.00
0757 New Corsa 1.2 Sxi 3dr Flame Red 2000miles	£9,495.00
0707 New Corsa 1.2 Sxi 3dr Star Silver 4500miles	£9,495.00
0707 New Corsa 1.2 Sxi 3dr Air Con Sapphire Black 4500miles	£9,495.00
0757 New Corsa 1.3Cdti Design 5dr Glacier White 350miles	£10,995.00

ASTRA Cabriolet From £8995

0505 Astra 1.8 16v Exclusive Cabriolet Sapphire Black Black Leather	£8,995.00
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NEW ASTRA From £6995

0505 New Astra 1.4 16v Breeze 5dr Star Silver 27000miles	£7,495.00
0656 New Astra 1.4 16v Club Choice of Colours 3 to choose from	£7,995.00
0656 New Astra 1.4 16v Life 5dr Air Con Moonland Just 7500miles	£8,295.00
0454 New Astra 2.0 16v Turbo Sri 5dr Ultra Blue 28000miles	£8,995.00
0606 New Astra 1.6 16v Sxi 5dr Star Silver 20000miles	£8,995.00
0606 New Astra 1.8 16v Design Auto Silver Lightning	£8,995.00
0707 New Astra 1.6 16v Design 5dr Star Silver 6000miles	£9,995.00
0707 New Astra 1.6 16v Sxi 5dr Star Silver 10000miles	£9,995.00
0707 New Astra 1.816v Elite AUTO 5dr Star Silver 6000miles	£10,995.00
0757 New Astra 1.8 Sri XP 5dr Choice of 3	£11,995.00
0656 New Astra 1.9Cdti (150) Design ESTATE Silver Lightning	£11,995.00

NEW ASTRA SPORT HATCH From £8995

0606 New Astra 1.4 16v Sxi Sport Hatch Ultra Blue 15000miles	£8,995.00
0606 New Astra 1.6 16v Sxi Sport hatch Full Leather trim Star Silver	£8,995.00
0707 New Astra 1.7 16v Cdti Sxi Sport hatch Flame Red	£11,995.00

NEW ASTRA TWIN TOP From £12995

0756 New Astra 1.6 16v Twin Top Sport Star Silver 7000miles	£12,995.00
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MERIVA From £4995

0454 Meriva 1.6 8v Life with Air Con Sapphire Black 30000miles	£4,995.00
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NEW MERIVA From £8995

0707 New Meriva 1.416v Energy Star Silver 5000miles	£8,995.00
0656 New Meriva 1.4 16v Design 10000miles Silver Lightning	£8,995.00
0757 New Meriva 1.4 16v Energy Sapphire Black 4500miles	£9,495.00

NEW VECTRA From £8995

0606 New Vectra 1.8VVTi Exclusive 5dr Ultra Blue 16000miles	£8,995.00
0707 New Vectra 1.9Cdti (120) Life ESTATE Pomegranite Red	£10,995.00
0707 New Vectra 3.0V6 Cdti AUTO Sat Nav Sapphire Black	£13,995.00
0757 New Vectra 1.9Cdti (150) Sri Estate Sat Nav Sapphire Black	£14,995.00

SIGNUM From £5995

0353 Signum 2.016v Turbo Design Star Silver 39000miles	£5,995.00
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ZAFIRA From £7495

0454 Zafira 1.8 16v Life Auto Ultra Blue 18000miles	£7,495.00
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NEW ZAFIRA From £9995

0606 New Zafira 1.6 16v Club Flame Red 21000miles	£9,995.00
0555 New Zafira 2.016v Turbo Sri Pannacotta 19000miles	£10,995.00
0606 New Zafira 1.8 16v Active Silver Lightning 14000miles	£10,995.00
0656 New Zafira 1.6 16v Active Star Silver 13000miles	£10,995.00
0505 New Zafira 1.9Cdti (120) AUTO Sri Sapphire Black 15000miles	£11,995.00
0555 New Zafira 1.9Cdti (150) Sri Sapphire Black 19000miles	£11,995.00
0606 New Zafira 1.9Cdti (150) Design Star Silver 14000miles	£12,995.00
0757 New Zafira 1.6 16v Cdti Metro Blue 1000miles	£12,995.00
0707 New Zafira 1.9Cdti Sri Sapphire Black 8000miles	£13,995.00

VXR RANGE From £15995

0757 New Astra 2.0VXR Turbo Sat Nav 19" Alloys	£15,995.00
0757 New Vectra 2.8V6 VXR Sat Nav Sapphire Black	£17,995.00

MONARO From £16995

0555 Monaro 5.7V8 Black with Black Leather 22000miles	£16,995.00
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OTHER MAKES From £5995

0202 Peugeot 206 CC 2.0Se Silver 46000miles	£5,995.00
0656 Mini Cooper Auto Yellow very high spec	£13,995.00

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USED CAR ROUND-UP: OUR PICK FROM A KEY SECTOR

4X4 ON THE CHEAP

ALISTAIR Darling's latest budget may have driven down secondhand values for big 4x4s, but it has probably firmed up prices on smaller 'rough and tough' drives. The fact is many people who bought into the rugged 4x4 look originally, have found they also value the extra grip and higher driving position even if they don't tend to go off-road. Now road tax and fuel prices have probably put their next purchase out of reach, they would do well to check out the three cheaper and smaller alternatives suggested here.

carsforrent.co.uk

FIAT PANDA 4X4



MAYBE not quite the typical 'butch' 4x4, but the Panda makes a surprisingly tough little customer for urban and rural users, thanks to under body protection and greater ride height. Despite Fiat's past reputation for poor reliability, the Panda has also proved itself as dependable as it is practical thanks to the boxy yet stylish five-door city car body. In sharp contradiction to the 'gas guzzling' image of 4x4s the Fiat's 1.2 petrol engine should average more than 40mpg too.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

SUZUKI JIMNY



PRETTY it ain't, but the Jimny has long been pretty much the cheapest 'proper' off-roader on the UK market. If you really do need cut-price 4x4 clout in challenging conditions then this is the car. However, that ability brings penalties; the Jimny is rather bouncy, primitive and crude on-road so it is not a 4x4 to buy for image-conscious town dwellers, but the car is frugal, cheap to run and prices are sensible for a reliable and durable little 4x4.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

TOYOTA RAV4



THIS was the car that launched the compact 4x4 sector and is almost a sub-brand on its own for Toyota. The bad news is that RAVs hold their value well, especially in diesel form, but they do go on for years so there should be a decent affordable 'GTI 4x4' out there for most buyers although diesel power did not appear until the second generation. On-road grip and handling is everything, though this means the off-road ability is modest.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

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YEAR	REG	MODEL	ENGINE	DOORS	COLOUR	MILEAGE	£	YEAR	REG	MODEL	ENGINE	DOORS	COLOUR	MILEAGE	£
CORSA															
2001	Y*	Corsa Comfort A/c	12	3	Space green	68,150	£3,395	2007	07	Vectra Design	18	5	Star silver	12,650	£9,995
2003	53*	Corsa Sxi	12	3	Aztec gold	63,000	£3,995	2007	07	Vectra Exclusiv + pack	18	5	Black sapphire	8,200	£9,495
2005	05	Corsa Sxi A/c	14	5	Black sapphire	43,950	£5,650	2007	07	New Vectra CDTi Sri	19D	5	Star silver	8,900	£12,995
2005	05	Corsa Breeze	10	3	Silver lightening	34,825	£5,495	2007	07	Vectra Life	18	5	Black sapphire	10,250	£9,995
2007	56	Corsa Sxi +	14	3	Silver lightening	3,250	£7,395	OTHER MAKES							
2007	56	New Corsa Club A/c	14	3	Star silver	10,085	£8,195	2004	54*	Renault Clio Dynamique	12	3	Silver	8,150	£4,995
2007	07	New Corsa Club A/c	12	5	Pannacotta	10,600	£8,495	2001	51*	Fiesta Ghia	16	5	Metallic green	57,800	£3,695
2007	57	New Corsa Club A/c	12	3	Star silver	5,950	£8,650	2004	54*	Hyundai Getz	11	3	Blue	16,500	£3,650
SIGNUM								COMMERCIAL VEHICLES							
2003	03*	Signum Elegance	22	5	Oyster	50,375	£5,995	2007	07	Vivaro SWB	19 D		White	9,400	£10,150+VAT
2003	53	Signum Elegance Auto	22	5	Star silver	36,500	£6,350	2006	56	Movano CDTi LWB	2.5		Silver	3,000	£13,995+VAT
2004	04	Signum Elite Auto	22	5	Black sapphire	22,000	£7,995	2006	56	Astravan CDTi Club	1.3		White	Delivery!!	£7,495+VAT
2004	04	Signum Elegance Auto	22	5	Silver	34,850	£7,695	2007	07	Combo Crew van	1.3D		White	Delivery!!	£8,495+VAT
MERIVA								2007	57	Combo CDTi	1.3D		White	Delivery	£7,995+VAT
2004	04	Meriva Design MTA	1.8	5	Ultra blue	35,000	£6,495	2007	57	Vivaro Double cab	1.9D		White	Delivery	£13,595+VAT
2005	05	Meriva Design CDTi	1.7D	5	Ultra blue	33,050	£7,695	2006	56	Astravan CDTi	1.3		White	9,800	£6,995+VAT
2005	05	Meriva Breeze E/T	1.6	5	Star silver	25,450	£6,695	2006	56	Combo CDTi	1.3		White	10,260	£6,995+VAT
2005	05	Meriva Design	1.6	5	Star silver	28,990	£6,995	2007	57	Combo CDTi	1.3D		White	13,475	£7,350+VAT
VXR8								2007	57	Combo CDTi	1.3		White	3,400	£7,650+VAT
2007	57	VXR8 Sat Nav	6.0	4	Phantom Black	6,000	£32,995	2003	53*	Vivaro SWB	1.9D		White	81,000	£5,995+VAT
TIGRA								2005	55*	Vivaro Sportiv LWB	1.9D		Red	57,500	£10,250+VAT
2007	07	Tigra Exclusiv Red	14	5	Metro blue	10,925	£11,995	2007	57	Vivaro CDTi SWB	1.9		White	12,100	£10,295+VAT
ASTRA								2005	05*	Nissan Primestar CDTi	1.9		Blue	87,350	£6,495+VAT
2002	52*	Astra Convertible	1.6	2	Flame red	58,100	£6,250	DUE SOON							
2004	54	New Astra Club	1.6	5	Black sapphire	29,450	£7,495	2002	02*	Corsa Sxi	12	3	Yellow	52,000	£3,995
2004	54	Astra Coupe	1.8	2	Star Silver	36,025	£6,995	2003	03*	Corsa Club	10	3	Star silver	48,000	£3,795
2004	54	New Astra Club E/T	1.6	5	Star silver	40,500	£6,995	2004	04	Corsa Energy CDTi	1.3D	3	Black sapphire	40,200	£5,495
2005	05	New Astra Estate Design	1.8	5	Breeze blue	33,700	£7,995	2005	05	Corsa Breeze	10	3	Star silver	28,000	£4,995
2007	57	New Astra Sxi CDTi	1.7D	3	Power red	8,150	£11,995	2005	05	Corsa Breeze	12	5	Silver lightening	32,000	£5,495
2007	57	Astra Club Estate CDTi	1.3D	5	Panacotta	7,850	£12,995	2005	05	Corsa Breeze	12	3	Silver lightening	20,000	£5,695
ZAFIRA								2006	06	Corsa Sxi Plus A/c	12	3	Black sapphire	17,000	£6,695
2005	05	Zafira Breeze	1.6	5	Black sapphire	39,100	£7,350	2007	07	Corsa Sxi A/c	14	3	Silver light	10,800	£8,995
2005	55	New Zafira Life A/c	1.6	5	Flame red	31,650	£8,995	2003	03	Astra Active	1.6	5	Ultra blue	44,000	£4,250
2007	57	Zafira Sxi Ex pack CDTi	1.9D	5	Metro blue	5,250	£14,995	2005	05	New Astra Sri	2.0	3	Black sapphire	15,000	£10,995
VECTRA								2005	05	New Astra Sxi	1.6	3	Ultra blue	42,000	£8,495
2005	05	Vectra Sri	2.2	5	Star silver	30,550	£7,995	2006	06	Astra Sxi	1.6	5	Moonland	16,000	£8,495
2006	06	Vectra Exclusiv	1.8	5	Black sapphire	14,900	£8,995	2004	53	Meriva Enjoy	1.8	5	Black sapphire	57,000	£5,295
2007	07	Vectra Exclusiv	1.8	5	Ultra blue	7,950	£10,995	2001	51*	Vectra Estate Sxi	1.8	5	Black sapphire	75,000	£3,395
2007	07	Vectra CDTi Exclusiv Est	1.9D	5	Metro blue	12,050	£12,995	2007	07	Vectra CDTi Exclusiv Auto	1.9D	5	Panacotta	8,000	£11,495
2007	07	Vectra Sni CDTi (150ps)	1.9D	5	Black sapphire	8,750	£15,995	*Non Network Q Vehicle							

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ALFA ROMEO

147, JTD 02, alloys, grey, £14995, Thames Group Tunbridge Wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

BENTLEY

ARNAGE, red label auto, 2001, silver, 50000 miles, £44950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

BMW

1 SERIES, 120i Se 5dr, black, 2004, 32300 miles, manual, petrol, £9990, Drake and Fletcher Honda, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 540 4298 (TRADE)

CADILLAC

CTS, 3.6 sport luxury v6, 2005, light platinum with black leather, 22379 miles, £12950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

CHEVROLET

KALOS, 1.4 SX 5dr, 11/03/2005, cd player driver airbag power steering immobiliser electric windows, red, 17094 miles, £4999, Invicta Motors, Ramsgate, 01843 853555 (TRADE)

KALOS, 1.4 SX, 24637, finished in poly silver with grey interior manual, grey, 0 miles, £5995, Caffyns Tunbridge Wells Vauxhall, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 515700 (TRADE)

CHRYSLER

300C, 5.7v8 auto estate, 2007, 10577 miles, £18950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

CITROEN

C2, 1.4i SX 3dr, 2007, wicked red, 6354 miles, £7495, Masters Citroen, Penge, 0208 659 0909 (TRADE)

C2, 1.1i Cool 3dr, 2007, sunshine yellow, 1000 miles, £7295, Masters Citroen, Penge, 0208 659 0909 (TRADE)

C2, 1.1i Cool 3dr, 2007, black, 3000 miles, £7295, Masters Citroen, Penge, 0208 659 0909 (TRADE)

DAIHATSU

DAIHATSU HI JET, 11 1999, 1.3 efi drop side truck 49,000 miles ex council, £2250, Beaver Commercial, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

GRAND MOVE, v3280h, immobiliser, cloth upholstery, power steering, metallic paintwork, radio, red, 45000 miles, £2499, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

DODGE

CALIBER, 1.8 SE 5dr, 14/04/2007, cd player power steering electric windows, black, 5700 miles, £8499, Invicta Motors, Canterbury, 08444 992321 (TRADE)

FIAT

BRAVO, T-JET, g107xsv, alarm, alloy wheels, anti-lock brakes, central locking, drivers airbag, electric windows, passenger airbag, power steering, side airbags, split/folding rear seats, tinted glass, traction control, trip computer, climate control, metallic paint, red, 7000 miles, £11995, Thames Group Tunbridge Wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

CINQUECENTO, m/1994, awaiting information, red, 74,000 miles, £, Cheriton Motor House, Folkestone, 01233 275795 (TRADE)

GRANDE PUNTO, wn062c, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, alloy wheels, computer, driver airbag, folding rear seats, electric mirrors, electric windows, immobiliser rear armrest, remote locking, side airbags, insurance group 2, blue, 20000 miles, £6494, SMC Mitsubishi Sittingbourne, Sittingbourne, 0844 5762476 (TRADE)

GRANDE PUNTO, g108fx, air conditioning, alloy wheels, anti-lock brakes, drivers airbag, electric windows, metallic paint, passenger airbag, power steering, remote central locking, side airbags, split/folding rear seats, tinted glass, traction control, trip computer, chemical grey, 0 miles, £11995, Thames Group Tunbridge Wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

FORD

EXPLORER, (no trim), 1999, Ford Explorer automatic, 1999, 29700 miles, new mot, vgc, fish, full specification, one lady driver, £1950, 07977 542607 Ramsgate, green, £1950, Kent, 07977542607 (PRIVATE)

FIESTA, 1.4 LX (a/c) Hatchback 5dr, 52/2002, pas central locking electric windows a/c, blue, 31,000 miles, £4595, Cheriton Motor House, Folkestone, 01303 275795 (TRADE)

FIESTA, Style 1.4 Tdci, 2006, moonstun silver with charcoal special trim, 25000 miles, £6995, IJM Motors, Strood, 01634 296688 (TRADE)

FIESTA, Style 1.4i, 2005, moonstun silver with charcoal high velour, 33000 miles, £5495, IJM Motors, Strood, 01634 296688 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 2.5 ST-2 3dr, 31/03/2007, cd player abs leather hood cover alarm power steering heated seats electric windows, black, 11216 miles, £1699, Invicta Motors, Ashford, 01233 504400 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 1.8 Edge 3dr (2004 - 2004), 04/02/2002, cd player driver airbag power steering immobiliser electric windows, blue, 24223 miles, £6999, Invicta Motors, Ramsgate, 01843 853555 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 1.6 LX 5dr, 06/05/2002, abs driver airbag immobiliser electric windows, blue, 43021 miles, £4999, Invicta Motors, Canterbury, 08444 992321 (TRADE)

HONDA

ACCORD, T-VTEC SE, 5530079, remote central locking, remote alarm, rear headrests, electric mirrors, electric windows, height adjustable seat, cruise control, power steering, adjustable steering column, radio cassette, air conditioning, twin air bags, electric sunroof, rear armrest, abs, cloth upholstery, red, 56000 miles, £3695, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

ISUZU

TROOPER, 3.0DT Commercial 4WD, 10404tp, please contact commercial sales department for further information, green, 24800 miles, £8990, SMC Ford Crayford, Crayford, 0844 4999792 (TRADE)

JAGUAR

S-TYPE, 3.0 V6 Auto, 1999, insurance group 15 abs alarm alloy wheels body coloured bumpers climate control immobiliser passenger airbag power steering radio/cassette remote central locking side airbags traction control trip computer 2 owners service history, meteorite silver, 62000 miles, £5000, A 1 Carriages, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

LAND ROVER

DEFENDER, 110 TDI County Station Wagon, 10862054, low park, rear wash/wipe, power steering, sunroof, 4x4, 9 seater, road tax is £185 per year on this vehicle, blue, 84000 miles, £3995, Diesel Centre, Staplehurst, 01580 890333 (TRADE)

MAZDA

323, 1.8i Executive, 1998, insurance group 12 2 owners service history central locking front electric windows drivers airbag power steering immobiliser, classic red, 53000 miles, £2499, A 1 Carriages, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

323, Sport 5dr, gn02wze, remote alarm, cloth upholstery, power steering, abs, air bag, electric mirrors, electric windows, cd player, colour coded body, head restraints, rear wash/wipe, air conditioning, 15" alloys, black, £3000 miles, £3999, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

MERCEDES-BENZ

230 Sport Kompressor, 1998, fantastic car with full ivory leather interior full sport pack, ilac/blue, 57,000 miles, £5999.00, Bob Fisher Garage, Ashford, 01303 814131 (TRADE)

A CLASS, A160 2.0 CDI Diesel Classic SE new shape auto, 1470077, remote alarm, remote central locking, centre armrest, rear armrest, rear headrests, folding rear seats, cruise control, multi-function steering wheel, power steering, traction control, abs, multiple airbags, front fog lamps, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, electric mirrors, electric windows, air conditioning, cd player, amazing saving on new price yet qualifying, always over 40 mercedes-benz cars in stock! we will not be beaten on price! fully fah regulated, all bi blue metallic, 12000 miles, £12995, DW Leisure Mercedes Benz Specialist, Welling, 0208 5848037 (TRADE)

MG

MGF, F Steptronic Sports, 443461, remote central locking, full leather, power steering, air bag, immobiliser, head restraints, metallic paintwork, colour coded body, electric windows, cd player, 16" alloys, british racing green, 43000 miles, £3999, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

MGF, F V6 Sports, bd51av, full leather, power steering, air bag, immobiliser, central locking, head restraints, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, electric windows, cd player, stereo, uk specification, 16" alloys, green, 90000 miles, £4299, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

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MINI

COOPER, 2006, silver, 7086 miles, £15995, WJ King Vauxhall, Bromley, 020 8464 3456 (TRADE)

COOPER, 2006, abs air conditioning alarm system alloy wheels automatic transmission cd changer cd player central locking coloured bumpers electric front windows leather steering wheel power steering rear window heated revolution counter sport steering wheel xenon light, yellow, 9500 miles, £14995, Fobarnes, Maidstone, 01622 755531 (TRADE)

COOPER S, 1.6 3 DR, 2002, trim: part leather engine size: 1600 transmission: manual no. of doors: 3, red, 44000 miles, £3995, Palm Bay, Margate, 01843 298554 (TRADE)

PEUGEOT

106, Zest 2 3dr, g52bde, power steering, immobiliser, cd player, radio, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, head restraints, air bag, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, red, 48000 miles, £2999, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

206, 1.4 LX 5dr [ac], red, 2001, 36073 miles, manual, petrol, 5 doors, 1 previous owners, red, £3990, Drake and Fletcher Honda, Tunbridge Wells, 0845 130 4298 (TRADE)

206, 1.4 HDi 5 5dr [AC], v05yef, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, computer, driver airbag, folding rear seats, electric mirrors, electric windows, front armrest, immobiliser, head restraints, passenger airbag, radio/cd, power assisted steering, rear headrests, rear armrest, remote locking, sports seats, insurance group 5, blue, 29900 miles, £5994, SMC Mitsubishi Sittingbourne, Sittingbourne, 0844 5762476 (TRADE)

206, GTi 3dr, 472461, remote central locking, half leather, head restraints, power steering, abs, air bag, auto lighting, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, cd player, air conditioning, electric windows, uk supplied, 16" alloys, blue, 52000 miles, £4999, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

206, GLX 5dr, g510pk, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, head restraints, power steering, air bag, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, cd player, radio, blue, 36000 miles, £3799, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

206, LX D 3dr, 514461, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, head restraints, power steering, air bag, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, electric windows, sunroof, stereo, rear wash/wipe, green, 51000 miles, £3399, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

RENAULT

CLIO, 1.4 16V Privilege Auto, 2001, insurance group 5 abs air conditioning alarm audio remote control body power steering radio/cd remote central locking side airbags sports seats steering wheel rake adjustment trip computer 2 owners, goodwood green, 35000 miles, £4000, A 1 Carriages, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

CLIO, Campus 1.2 8v 3dr, au060m, immobiliser, remote central locking, abs, twin air bags, colour coded body, rear wash/wipe, electric windows, cd player, radio, blue, 29000 miles, £4990, AR Cars, Kent, 01342 851122 (TRADE)

CLIO, Expression 16v 3dr, af03vnr, immobiliser, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, colour coded interior, height adjustable seat, adjustable steering column, power steering, abs, side air bags, twin air bags, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, rear spoiler, rear wash/wipe, electric front windows, electric mirrors, sunroof, cd player, gold metallic, 32000 miles, £4990, AR Cars, Kent, 01342 851122 (TRADE)

CLIO, Expression 16v 3dr, hv52 jzg, alarm, remote central locking, rear headrests, rear wash/wipe, electric front windows, electric mirrors, height adjustable seat, cruise control, multi-function steering wheel, air conditioning, climate control, trip computer, auto-dip rearview, cloth upholstery, silver, 71200 miles, £3995, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

CLIO, Expression 16v 5dr, 5950079, remote central locking, alarm, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, height electric mirrors, abs, power steering, cloth upholstery, blue, 34300 miles, £4495, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

SAAB

9-3, Linear T1D 1.9, oct 2004 g54wdc, two previous keepers, power steering, remote central locking, air conditioning, electric windows, full service history, twin & side airbags, abs brakes, engine immobiliser, car alarm, on-board computer, tinted glass, adj. steering column, seat height adjuster, alloy wheels, silver metallic, 32,000 miles, £9,495, Hollis Motors, Dover, 01304 206710 (TRADE)

9-3 VECTOR, 2005, trim: cloth engine size: 1900 transmission: automatic no. of doors: 5, pearl black, 34700 miles, £14995, Palm Bay, Margate, 01843 298554 (TRADE)

9-5 CONVERTABLE, 2000 (wv), stunning diamond black coachwork with grey leather trim, full service history, electric park, remote central locking, alarm, air con, electric windows, electric mirrors, twin air bags, alloy wheels, original hi-fi, stunning condition diamond black, low mileage miles, £6995, Riviera Car Sales, Folkestone, 01303 244244 (TRADE)

9000, 2.3 CDE Saloon 4d 2290cc auto, n, very rare auto saab 9000 griffin very fast car very clean immaculate for year, green, 100k miles, £1399.00, Bob Fisher Garage, Ashford, 01303 814131 (TRADE)

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SUZUKI JIMMY J1X, 09 2000, 1.2 p auto 4x4 estate red 45,000 miles, £2495, Beaver Commercial, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

ALTO, 1.1 GL Hatchback 5dr, 05/2005, pascentral locking electric windows, black, 37,000 miles, £3895, Cheriton Motor House, Folkestone, 01303 275795 (TRADE)

ALTO, 1.1 GL Hatchback 5dr, 54/2005, pas electric windows central locking, silver, 30,000 miles, £3895, Cheriton Motor House, Folkestone, 01303 275795 (TRADE)

CARRY VAN 1.3, 54/2004, pas central locking, white, 35,000 miles, £4495 inc vat, Cheriton Motor House, Folkestone, 01303 275795 (TRADE)

DL-V 1000 K2, 2003 (03), 2003 (03) suzuki dl-v 1000 k2 storm, only 8000 dry miles, garaged stored, service history, extras inc; centre stand, alarm immobiliser, grip warmers, rear luggage rack, new mot, tax until april 08, as new condition and only £3995, yellow, £3995, Riviera Car Sales, Folkestone, 01303 244244 (TRADE)

VAUXHALL

CORSA, Club, 51, 1 years mot, recently serviced full service history, 2 owners, excellent condition, cheap tax and insurance, silver, 52000 miles, £2850, Kent, 0782119575 (PRIVATE)

MERIVA, Energy 1, 14637, finished in silverlight silver with black interior manual, black, 0 miles, £3995, Caffyns Tunbridge Wells Vauxhall, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 515700 (TRADE)

MERIVA, Energy 1, 8637, finished in sapphire black with black cloth interior manual, black, 0 miles, £3995, Caffyns Tunbridge Wells Vauxhall, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 515700 (TRADE)

MERIVA, Energy 1, 9637, finished in lightning silver with black interior manual, black, 0 miles, £3995, Caffyns Tunbridge Wells Vauxhall, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 515700 (TRADE)

NEW ASTRA, 2007, black sapphire, 14209 miles, £10995, WJ King Vauxhall, Farningham, 01322 862366 (TRADE)

NEW ASTRA, 2007, star silver, 12966 miles, £8195, WJ King Vauxhall, Gravesend, 01474 565656 (TRADE)

NEW ASTRA, 2007, silver lightning, 18655 miles, £8195, WJ King Vauxhall, Farningham, 01322 862366 (TRADE)

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REF: 473 - YOUNG PERSONS' DRUG AND ALCOHOL SERVICES WORKER - CANTERBURY

FIXED TERM CONTRACT FOR 1 YEAR
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For an application form please contact: KCA Head Office, Dan House, 44 East Street, Faversham, Kent ME13 8AT
Tel: 01795 590635, Fax: 01795 539351
email recruitment@kca.org.uk, website www.kca.org.uk
Closing Date: 18 April 2008
Interview Date: 29 April 2008

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all and welcomes applications from people with experience of substance use or who have had previous problems with substance misuse.

Charity No: 292824

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Swale Community Safety Partnership Co-ordinator

3 years fixed term contract
37 hours per week Salary £21,078 - £28,032

Swale Community Safety Partnership is a multi-agency group involving local council, Police, Education, Social Services, Kent Fire & Rescue, Primary Care Trust, Probation and local social housing provider. The Swale Community Safety Partnership objective is to reduce crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour and substance misuse within Swale Borough.

We are seeking to appoint a Community Safety Partnership Co-ordinator to facilitate the objectives of Swale Community Safety Partnership through co-ordination of information to the Partnership to help and enable it to set policy, make decisions and deliver services to reduce crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in Swale.

You will need to evidence

- Experience of partnership working including ability to negotiate with, and encourage partners to work together and support the role of the Community Safety Partnership.
- Good communication and presentation skills both written and verbal.
- Insight into Partnership responsibilities within the Community Safety Partnership.
- Proficiency in interpretation of statistics and relevant analytical products, and budgetary control.
- Driving Licence and occasional use of a vehicle for work.

It would also be desirable to have experience of managing varied teams to achieve successful outcomes in a partnership environment, knowledge of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and subsequent legislation, and be a skilled IT user.

The post holder will primarily work from Swale Borough Council Offices in Sittingbourne.

For further information contact Human Resources, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 3HT. Telephone: Sittingbourne (01795) 417414 (24 hour voice mail) quoting 503ED3.

E-Mail: hr@swale.gov.uk Website: <http://jobs.swale.gov.uk>

Closing date: 21 April 2008
Interviews: 9 May 2008



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In addition to the minimum requirements detailed above, candidates will also need a teaching qualification or the willingness to work towards one, excellent communication and IT skills and the ability to work well as part of a team. Qualifications A1/A2 (or D32 and D33) would also be an advantage.

The successful candidate will also need to be flexible, as the full-time hours will include teaching some evening classes and travelling to our satellite centres, currently in Motingham, South East London and Canterbury, Kent.

As well as contributory pension scheme, sponsorship for further vocational training and free car parking, this post also attracts 35 days holiday each year (excluding bank holidays).

To receive an information pack and application form please telephone the Human Resources Department on 01732 850551 or e-mail us at jobs@hadlow.ac.uk.

Closing date is Monday, 21st April 2008.

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Section Manager Equine, Animal Care, Veterinary Services and Environmental Conservation

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £32,808 per annum
Post ref: 08/08/KOS

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For an application pack please visit www.cant-col.ac.uk or call the Personnel Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference.

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We are looking for some experience of procurement, preferably within the public sector, an enquiring mind and good written and oral communication skills. We will support studying for a professional qualification and put a learning emphasis on supporting personal development.

Ref: CED/08/0035

Closing date: midday, 8th April 2008.

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Ref: CFE/08/0115

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Telephone - (01634) 842811
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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Cut down the stress and save money too

BUSINESS watchdog Acas is urging companies to reduce absenteeism by ensuring employees are healthy at work.

Recent research indicated that 307,000 people in the South East suffered from an illness they believed was caused or made worse by their work.

Other studies discovered that three out of every 10 employees experienced mental health problems and it is estimated stress-related sick leave costs UK businesses £370 million a year or the equivalent of 91 million working days.

The agency added that managers need to be aware of health issues, especially those affecting mental well-being.

Paul Beard, director of Acas for the South East, said: "Creating a healthy workplace has strong benefits for individuals and organisations.

"This guide will help businesses ensure measures are taken to look after employees, which in turn will boost productivity and effectiveness.

"If businesses can take steps to manage ill-health, then they will save money and have happier employees."

Certificate is needed to prove competence

A DEADLINE is approaching for businesses across the county to be able to display a certificate of competence when it comes to transporting animals.

If they are unable to do so, a £500 fine or six months' imprisonment can be imposed. The regulations come into effect from the end of April.

With its large farming community, Kent is particularly affected by the new regulations, which are part of the European Council's regulations covering animals transported "for economic gain".

Environmental accreditation body Lantira has developed a qualification which covers the act.

"We have seen a good uptake in candidates undertaking the assessments; however, it is important businesses and individuals don't leave it to the last minute to enquire about these qualifications," said Lantira's managing director Wayne Grills.

For more information Lantira can be phoned on 024 7641 9703.

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Discover how the county's hop-farming industry is changing

Defending the ethics of trade

■ BY NICK AMES

AN ETHICAL code to ensure "a high set of values" for Britain's defence industry, including Rochester-based BAE Systems, is being proposed by trade minister Lord Digby Jones.

Lord Jones's department is taking over the role of promoting arms exports and says a new ethical code is necessary to restore faith in an industry which has suffered allegations of corruption.

From April 1, UK Trade and Investment – part of the Department for Business and Enterprise – took over arms sales promotion from the Ministry of Defence.

The move was controversial as it involved scrapping the MOD's own export agency, which was championed by industry heavyweights including BAE chief executive Mike Turner.

BAE bosses said they were aware of the move, but it was still in its early stages.

But a spokeswoman said: "We are committed to operating at the highest possible level, so would fully support any move to ensure this is done so across the industry."

A new agency has been formed under the departmental umbrella to conduct the work. Called the Defence and Security Organisation, it can tap into its parent

organisation's contacts – which could prove a bonanza for UK exports and jobs within the industry.

According to bosses, the old group had presentation in about 20 companies – as opposed to the 130 which can now be reached.

But part of the shake-up is the introduction of a new ethical code.

Lord Jones said: "I want a transparent code of conduct that people can look at, check and mark off against."

He added the code would be "a set of values about how we sell defence equipment around the world".

The minister added he hoped more people would be attracted to work in the business.

"I want kids to understand that defence manufacturing as a sector is something they should build a career in.

"No kid is going to go in there if they think this Government does not approve of it or like it.

"If we stop making [defence equipment] you are not going to stop the French and Russians and everybody else making the stuff, so you are not going to make the world a safer place.

"In fact, if anything, you are going to take out of the game a player that has a code of conduct and a very high level of transparency."



CODE: Trade minister Lord Digby Jones has proposed a new set of values for defence



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GOLDEN EFFORT: Danny Carrott won gold in the under 90 kilo event after stepping up in class

A golden day for Sombo

SITTINGBOURNE Warriors Grappling Academy once again dominated British Sombo Wrestling by winning six golds, five silver and five bronze medals.

The club won six out of the 15 titles, but it was the junior section of the club that won through after taking all three places in the two categories they entered.

Ashley Jordan, 14, won the under 30 kilo lightweight division despite stiff competition from Germany. Liam Allen has improved a great deal in the last few months and looks to become another regular medal winner after he won gold in the under 35 kilo category. Ben Franks won in the under 40 kilo, while Jamie Marzetti scooped gold in the under 74 kilo category.

WRESTLING

The club's seniors did not fare so well this year mainly because of the exceptional high standard of the foreign contingent, the club also fielded several new fighters who, although unplaced, did exceptionally well. Danny Carrott won gold in the under 90 kilo class. The 21-year-old went up a weight to take on the six time British champion. Carrott showed his ability and justified why he has several international caps as well as representing Great Britain in the 2007 World Championships.

The fight would be very tactical as both players knew one little mistake

would be their defeat.

A momentary loss of concentration from his opponent allowed Carrott a chance in catching his opponent with a two point side drop throw to take the title.

Karl Swindle won bronze in the 100 kilo plus and then gold in the Veterans. On each occasion he beat World Masters bronze medallist Darren Richardson.

The club's next big event is at Swallows Leisure Centre in Sittingbourne on April 20 in the Young Judo Club Open.

Anyone interested in judo or sombo wrestling should visit www.youngjudo-club.co.uk or visit Swale Martial Arts Club in East Street, Sittingbourne.

Ladies' end their season in style

GOKE Court ladies 1st XI continued their fine form with a 4-1 win against BBHC in their last game of the season.

The Sittingbourne hockey side raced into a three goal lead at half-time to all but guarantee maximum points. Several fine passing moves completely opened up the BBHC defence allowing Al Cox to score the first goal. Shortly afterwards she had another shot saved but Jo Byrne was in a perfect position to put in the rebound.

Several minutes later another fine passing move saw Cox slip the ball to Sarah Goulsdon who scored at the far post.

In the second half the visitors scored from a short corner, but Katherine Wood's goal prevented any hope of a comeback.

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Gillingham boss Mark Stimson on how he plans to steer the club to safety

Last game blues for Bordenians

OLD Bordenians 1st XI slumped to a heavy defeat in their last game of the season at Blackheath.

The fourth-placed side hammered the Old Boys 11-2 on Saturday, inflicting the hockey club's 12th defeat of a season, which has seen them drop to fifth from bottom in the Kent/Sussex Regional League.

The Old Boys will look back on a season that heralded eight victories with some optimism for next season. The Sittingbourne side will look for an improved campaign next time out in an attempt to gain promotion to the National South League for the first time.

PLEASE SEND YOUR SPORTS STORIES TO SPORTS EDITOR GLENN PEARSON AT

glenn.pearson@kosmedia.co.uk



ON TARGET: Youngster Colin Richmond (14) scored Sittingbourne's fifth against a poor Horsham YMCA and then celebrates with Bryan Glover and Hicham Akhazzan

Pictures: CHRIS REGAN



Five-star show puts Brickies back in hunt

FOOTBALL

■ BY GLENN PEARSON

Horsham YMCA 0 Sittingbourne 5

SITTINGBOURNE'S play-off chances were given a boost at the weekend after a comprehensive victory at lowly Horsham YMCA.

After defeats to Whitstable Town and Horsham earlier this month, Brickies manager Gary Abbott had given up hope of reaching the play-offs. However, after his side's five star performance on Saturday, Sittingbourne are still in with a shout for the one remaining play-off spot.

The Brickies welcomed back Paul Ainsworth from injury, but captain Joe Dowley was missing with illness and was replaced by Tarik Ozresberoglu.

The home side had the best of the first 30 minutes and had chances to break the deadlock. However, they failed to take their chances and it was Sittingbourne that opened their account.

Bryan Glover jinked his way into the YMCA penalty area and lost the ball, but it fell kindly to Bradley Spice whose shot easily beat the keeper.

Just before half-time, Horsham YMCA's chances of getting anything out of the game

took a severe blow when Philip Fitzgerald was sent off. Hicham Akhazzan slotted a ball through to Dave Milton who raced away from the YMCA defenders only to be bought down from behind by Fitzgerald. The referee had no other option than to produce a red card.

The story of the second half was one of goals and near misses for Sittingbourne.

After 65 minutes a move involving Milton and Ryan Andrews ended up with Ryan Johnson expertly curling the ball around a couple of YMCA defenders and into the corner of the net for his first goal in a Sittingbourne shirt.

Two minutes later the Brickies were further in front. Lee Spiller and Spice both hit the bar, but Akhazzan followed up by hitting the rebound into the net.

Sittingbourne had to wait until the 86th

minute for their fourth goal. Ryan Johnson found Akhazzan with a good pass and his shot gave the YMCA keeper no chance.

The final goal came after 89 minutes. The YMCA keeper came rushing out of his goal to confront substitute Colin Richmond, but the young midfielder neatly side-stepped him and ran the ball into the net.

Abbott has been delighted with Johnson's impact since joining the club and hopes with the addition of some new players in the summer, his side stand a chance of winning the Ryman South next season.

He said: "I can tell he (Johnson) is quality and he is only going to get better now. I signed him three months ago but he decided to go and help a friend out, but now we have got him with us."

"We have got players lined up to come in next season and we are going out to win this league and I think we can do it. We have Conference players we want to bring in but at the moment we haven't got the budget, so we will have to wait and see what we can come up with for next season."

The Brickies take on Dulwich Hamlet away on Friday night, kick-off is at 7.45pm.

Strikers on song for reborn Town

FOOTBALL

BY YOURSWALE REPORTER

Erith & Belvedere 1 Faversham Town 2

FAVERSHAM Town continued their good form since the turn of the year with a well earned victory away at Erith & Belvedere.

Striker Matt Carruthers has hit form for the Lilywhites, scoring for the third time in four games, while Mike McKenna secured all three points for Justin Luchford and Jimmy Strouts' side.

With Wes Hammond unavailable due to illness and Strouts absent through work commitments, Darren Constable returned in defence while teenage winger Kris Richardson started for the first time.

Faversham started brightly with Richardson proving to be effective down the left side, while defensively the visitors looked confident and were easily able to deal with a 'Deres side that thrashed the Lilywhites 9-2 back in November.

The deadlock was broken on 21 minutes when Roy Guiver's header was only half cleared to Carruthers who hit a clean strike high into the top right hand corner of Matt Bromby's goal.

An innocuous tackle from skipper Hickman saw 'Deres Mark Nougher helped from the pitch nursing a knee injury as the sides went into the break with the visitors looking good value for their lead.

Town were quickest out of the blocks after the interval and had extended their lead within three minutes of the restart.

A moment of indecision between Bromby and defender John Farley allowed Carruthers to intercept on the edge of the penalty area before squaring the ball for McKenna to tap home from close range.

The second goal seemed to act as a wake-up call for the home side and the introduction of Paul Gross and Ashley Dunkley on 65 minutes



IN FORM: Town striker Mike McKenna secured all three points for a resurgent Faversham, who have won four of their last six games

Picture TONY GRAY

gave the home side the pace up front that was sadly lacking in the first half.

A well taken goal from the impressive Dunkley reduced the deficit and set the scene for an exiting finish with the home side sensing the possibility of a comeback.

With the home side pushing hard for the equaliser, the Lilywhites were reduced to ten men when goalkeeper Gavin Wright was stretchered off in agony with suspected torn knee ligaments. As all three substitutes had

been used, Constable donned the gloves and green jersey for what was a tense end to the match.

Referee Finnigan played 13 minutes of stoppage time, much of which saw the Town side defend resolutely to protect rookie keeper Constable who dealt confidently with anything that found its way through.

The Lilywhites are on the road again next weekend as they travel to face title hopefuls VCD Athletic at Oakwood, kick-off is at 3pm.

yourswale

SPORT IN BRIEF

Wind of fortune was against Sheerness East

A CRAIG Holland effort was not enough to beat high-flying Orpington who won 4-1 at a blustery Sheerness East on Saturday.

The windy conditions made it difficult for both sides, but it was the visitors who opened up the scoring in the second minute.

Sheerness East got back into the game eight minutes later when Holland turned his marker on the edge of the box before firing in a right-footed effort.

Orpington retook the lead before half-time. It was East's last game of a difficult season.

Waterlogged pitch puts islander's game on hold

AFC Sheppey's clash with the University of Kent at Canterbury was called off on Saturday due to a waterlogged pitch.

The islander's game was one of three called off due to the weather, including league leaders Bly Spartans who were unable to extend their lead at the top of Kent County Division One East.

Sheppey sit in second, two points behind but having played three games more than their rivals. Sheppey's date for the final of the Senior Les Leckie Cup with Bly Spartans is on May 6.

Sheppey left to focus on a tough Kent Vase final

SHEPPEY RFC will finish mid-table in Kent Two after a 15-3 defeat away to second-placed Vigo at the weekend.

The islanders are likely to finish fourth in the league after falling to their sixth defeat of the season.

They will be looking forward to their last game of the season against arch rivals Medway on April 12, before they take on the same opponents in the Kent Vase final a week later.

Bourne continue to slide after another defeat

SITTINGBOURNE RFC slumped to their ninth defeat of the season on Saturday, after going down 23-16 away to Ashford.

Bourne are sixth in Kent One and in danger of slipping further, which would be a disappointment considering their bright opening to the campaign which saw them challenging at the top. Sittingbourne's last game of the season is on April 12 at the Grove against Gillingham Anchorians.

Court end season with a flourish

HOCKEY

City of Portsmouth 1 Gore Court 8

GORE Court finished off their season in the best possible way with a resounding victory over basement side City of Portsmouth.

The Sittingbourne side travelled to Portsmouth looking to address their recent form that saw them drop off the pace at the top of Southern Premier Division Two.

Court were also keen to use the match as preparation for the Kent Cup final in May. The Sittingbourne side started well and created a good number of chances. The Portsmouth side, made up mostly of young players, were struggling to cope with Court's speed and athleticism and it wasn't long before the visitors opened the scoring through Richard Dixon. The lead was extended almost immediately when Nick Wilcher finished off a good passing move.

Court made it three when Paul Surridge fired a shot across the goalkeeper into the far corner.

The second half continued with Court in total control of the game.

They went on to score a further five goals, with Surridge getting four, Wilcher two and Doug Reed and Richard Dixon the other scorers.

It was a reasonable performance, but Court have a lot of work to do to if they are to produce a competitive performance against either Holcombe or Canterbury in the cup final.

Court can look back on their league campaign with a mixture of satisfaction and disappointment.

A final position of fifth in the league and a points tally of 40 is the best return for the team for some years, but Court had a great chance of promotion and will look back on a number of below par performances, especially in February and at the beginning of March, which meant they came up ten points short in the end.



GOOD FINISH: Court comprehensively beat City of Portsmouth in their final game of the season

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Golfer Dani Masters talks about her preparations for the new season

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